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BATMAN

BAT MAN

NO. 261
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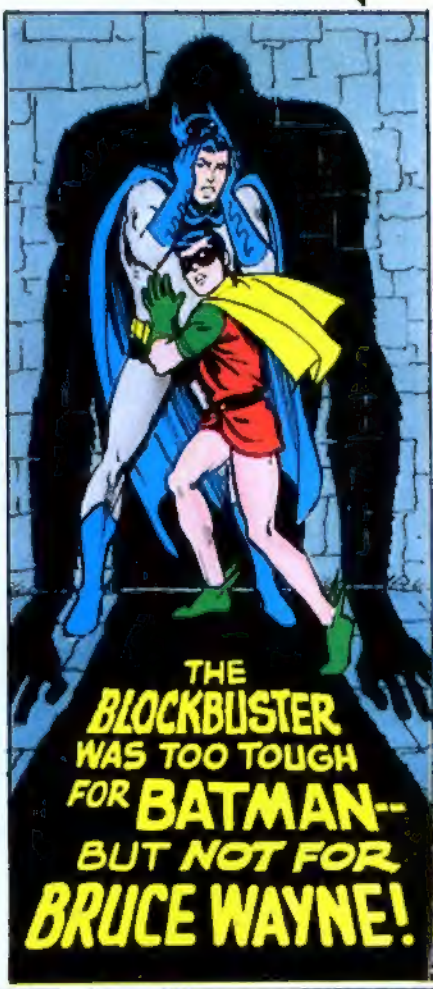

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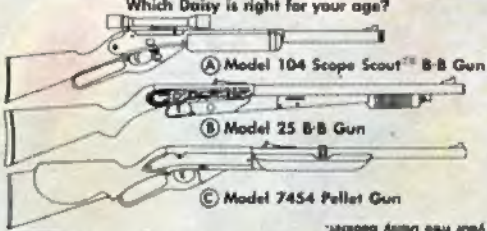

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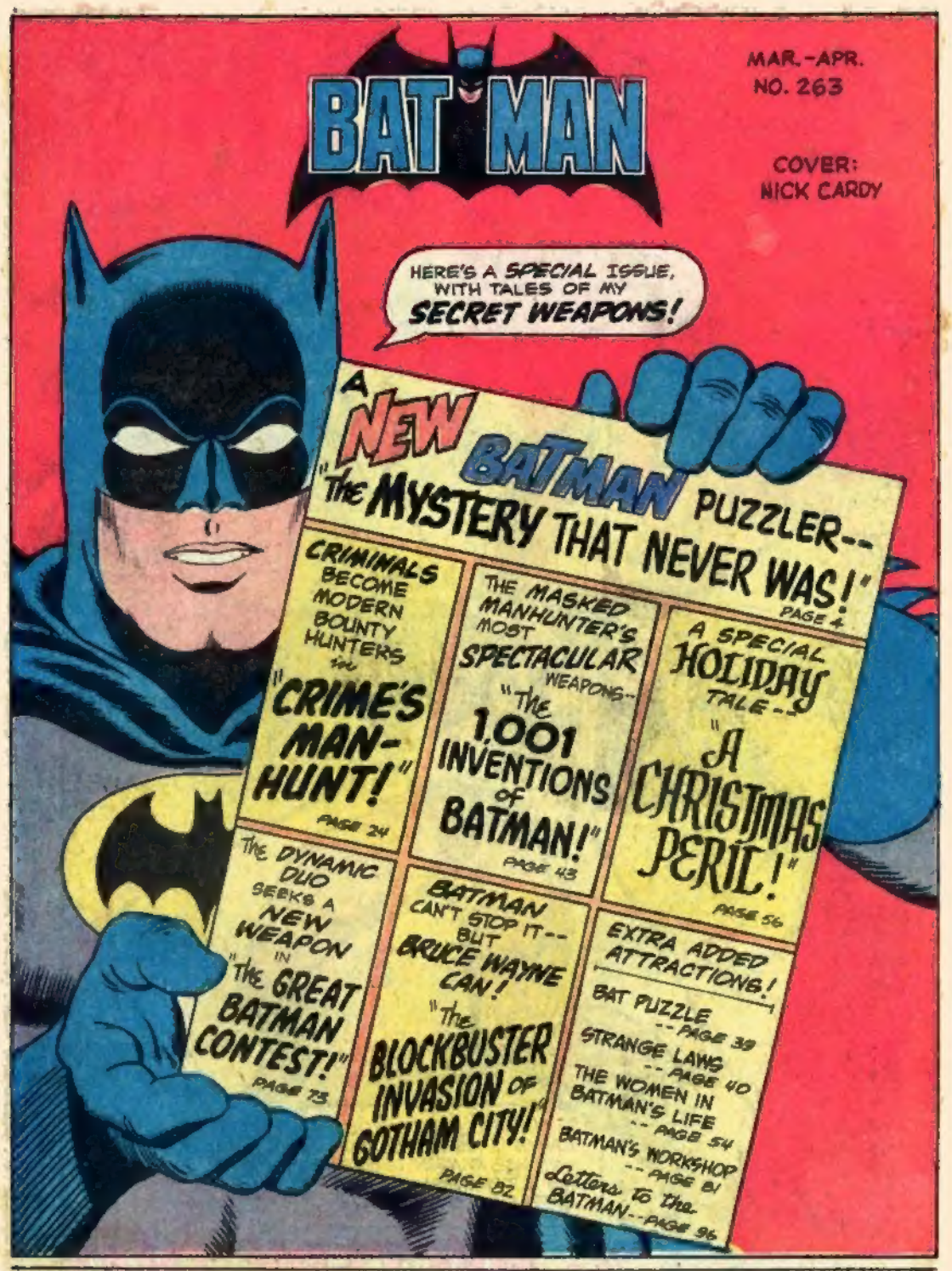
BAT MAN
MAR.-APR.
NO. 263
COVER:
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HERE'S A SPECIAL ISSUE, WITH TALES OF MY SECRET WEAPONS!
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"THE MYSTERY THAT NEVER WAS!"
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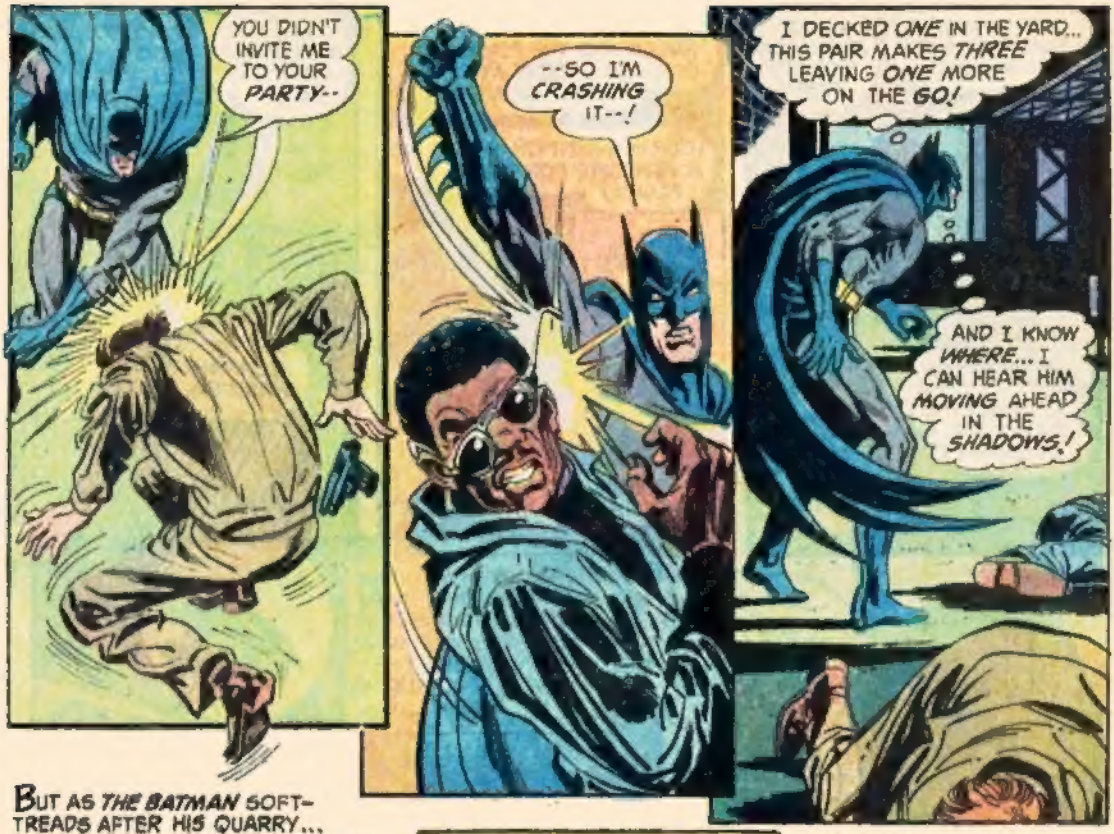
BATMAN
STORY BY DENNY O'NEIL
ART BY IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO
EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ
A TERRIBLE CONFLICT RAGES IN HIS SOUL... AND IMMENSE DANGER THREATENS HIS VERY BEING... AS THE BATMAN SEEKS TO SOLVE--
"The MYSTERY THAT NEVER WAS!"

IT IS THE END OF A PLEASANT DAY SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF GOTHAM CITY AND THIS HUGE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IS QUIET--
--QUIET, YES, BUT NOT DESERTED! FOR BRUCE WAYNE IS STROLLING WITH AN OLD FRIEND-- HAL HEMINGWAY...
QUITE A LAYOUT, HAL!
BRUCE, MY BOY, YOU HAVEN'T SAID THE HALF OF IT!
I DESIGNED THE FACTORY'S SECURITY COMPLEX MYSELF--
--AND WHAT IT HASN'T GOT, HASN'T BEEN THOUGHT OF YET! RADAR, LASERS, AUDIO-PICKUPS... THE WORKS!
BELIEVE ME, BRUCE-- A MOUSE COULDN'T GET PAST THE FENCE WITHOUT SETTING OFF ALARMS THAT'D WAKE THE MAN IN THE MOON!
HOWEVER...
HAL-- LOOK! ARE THOSE YOUR PEOPLE?
N-NO... MUST BE INTRUDERS!
I HAVEN'T HAD MY GUN OUT SINCE I RETIRED FROM THE POLICE!
I'VE BEEN HOPING I'D NEVER HAVE TO USE IT AGAIN!
I'LL GO FOR HELP!
I WON'T HAVE TO GO FAR...
TOOLS
...JUST BEHIND THIS SHED...
...LONG ENOUGH TO CHANGE TO THE BATMAN!
2

HAL HASN'T LOST HIS TOUCH! HE'S GOT THE HOODS ON THE RUN!
...ALL EXCEPT FOR THE ONE BEHIND HIM!
BAM-
BAM!
THE BATMAN!
AT YOUR SERVICE!
ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW WE CAN ROUND UP JUNIOR'S PLAYMATES?
THEY DUCKED BEHIND THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING!
THEY'RE TRAPPED... NOBODY COULD GET THROUGH THE FENCE BACK THERE!
THEN WHAT SAY WE GO BOUNCE 'EM--?
WITHIN SECONDS...
S-SEE...I TOLD YA I SEEN THE BATMAN!
RIGHT!
3


YOU DIDN'T INVITE ME TO YOUR PARTY--
--SO I'M CRASHING IT--!
I DECKED ONE IN THE YARD... THIS PAIR MAKES THREE LEAVING ONE MORE ON THE GO!
AND I KNOW WHERE... I CAN HEAR HIM MOVING AHEAD IN THE SHADOWS!

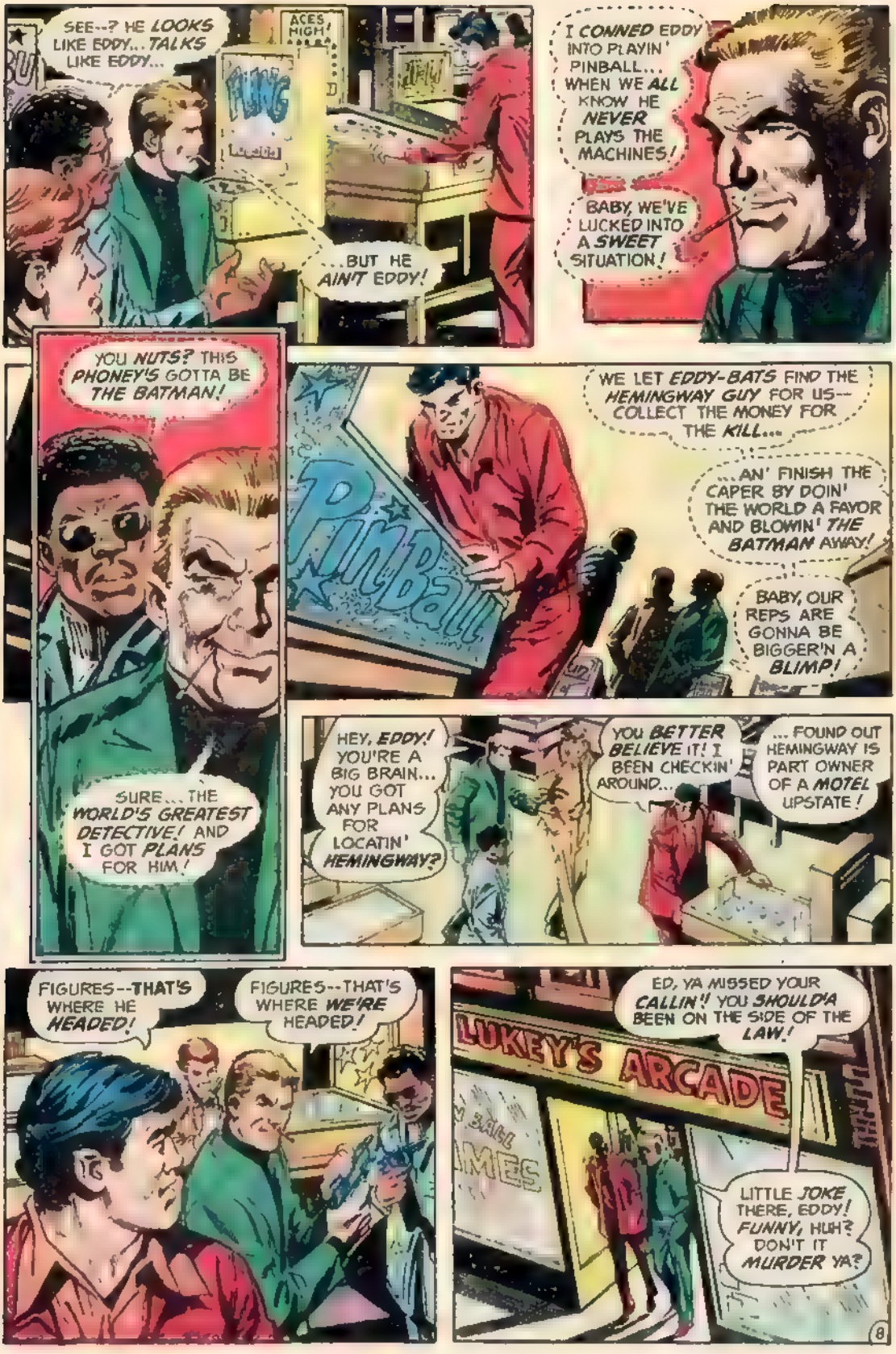
BUT AS *THE BATMAN* SOFT-TREADS AFTER HIS QUARRY...

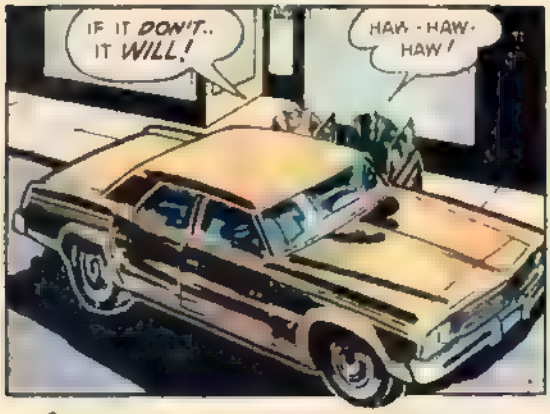
...A SNEAK BLOW SEEMS TO COME FROM *NOWHERE*... AND AN INKY CHILL SWALLOWS THE *MASKED MANHUNTER*...

SEARCH ME! I HEARD SHOTS AND CAME RUNNING...
...AND FOUND YOU--NOBODY ELSE!
HAL AND THE THUGS ARE MISSING?
I WISH THEY WERE THE ONLY THINGS MISSING--
--THE SAFE HAS BEEN RIFLED AND THE PLANS FOR OUR NEW FASION REACTOR ARE...GONE!
OUR COMPETITION WOULD PAY A FORTUNE FOR THOSE PLANS!
WILSON--WHEN YOU ARRIVED...
...WAS THAT GATE LOCKED--AS IT IS NOW?
EVERYTHING'S LOCKED...ALL EXCEPT THE SAFE!
AND NO ALARMS SOUNDED...
...A VARIATION OF THE LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY! WELL...SINCE JOHN DICKSON CARR ISN'T HERE TO SOLVE IT, I'LL GIVE IT A TRY!
I'VE A VERY GOOD IDEA WHERE TO BEGIN!
MIDNIGHT IN MIDTOWN GOTHAM...THE HAPPY COUPLE PASSING THE KNICKERBOCKER HOTEL IS UNAWARE OF THE SILENT FIGURE GLIDING UP A WALL...
...NOR OF THE GRIM DRAMA BEING PLAYED IN A ROOM OVERLOOKING THE AVENUE...
LEMME GET THIS STRAIGHT! YOU WANT US TO FIND THE HEMINGWAY DUDE... AND SNUFF HIM?
YE-AH, OKAY, WILL DO!

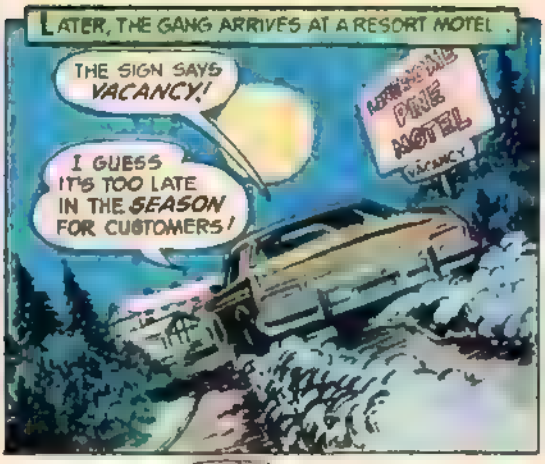
INTERESTING CONVERSATION, EDDY!
TH-THE B-BATMAN! HOW'D YOU--?
HOW DID I KNOW YOU WERE AT A CERTAIN FACTORY EARLIER? SIMPLE... I RECOGNIZED YOU!
I PUT YOU IN PRISON-- REMEMBER?
I KEEP TABS ON MY OLD BUDDIES!
YOU AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' ON ME!
NO--? LISTEN... JUST BY CARRYING THAT AUTOMATIC, YOU BROKE PAROLE!
NOW...DO YOU TALK--
--OR DO I USE YOU FOR A WRECKING BALL?
WHO SENT YOU TO THE FACTORY? WHO WERE YOU JUST TALKING TO?
I DUNNO... I SWEAR! I WAS ONLY A HIRED HAND!
SOME DUDE SHELLED OUT PLENTY FOR US TO BUST IN!
SAID HE HAD A GADGET TO KNOCK OUT THE ALARM SYSTEM!
THAT WAS HIM ON THE PHONE...
...SAID I WAS TO MEET MY PALS AT LUKEY'S ARCADE AND GO ON A KILL!
16

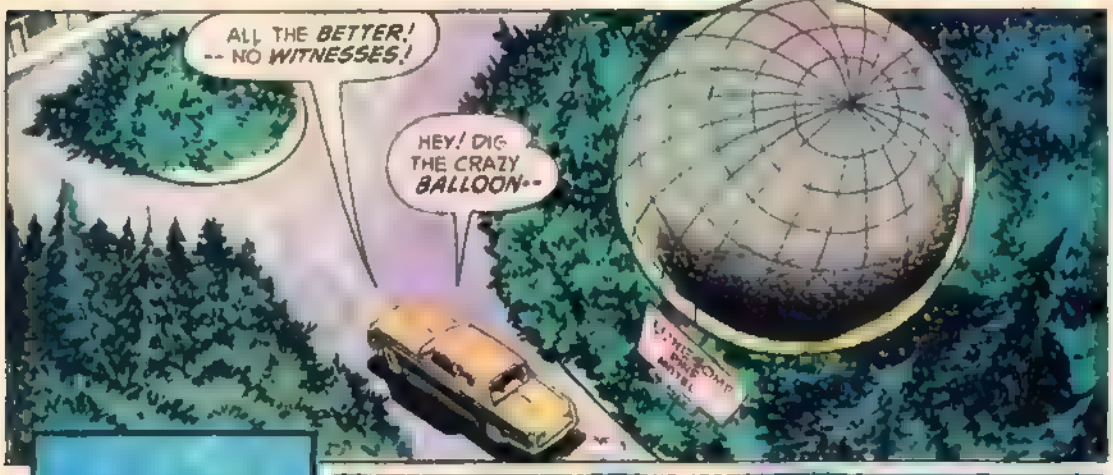
IF YOU'RE LYING... I'LL HAVE YOU THROWN INTO A HOLE SO DEEP THEY HAVEN'T HEARD OF SUNLIGHT THERE!
THE BATMAN... AN' EDDY! I GOTTA GET BACK TO THE OTHERS!
LATER THAT NIGHT... BRUCE WAYNE'S PENT-HOUSE ATOP THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING...
...AND COMMISSIONER GORDON AGREED TO KEEP EDDY ON ICE UNTIL I HAVE A CHANCE TO CRACK THIS MESS, ALFRED!
YOU HAVE A PROGRAM, MASTER BRUCE?
YE-AH... I'M GONNA TAKE EDDY'S PLACE! OKAY--?
AND HAVE YOU ARRIVED AT A SUPPOSITION REGARDING MISTER HEMINGWAY?
IS HE... AH--CRIMI-- NALLY INVOLVED?
I HOPE NOT, ALFRED! YET HE DID RUN... AND HE CERTAINLY COULD HAVE BEATEN THE SECURITY SYSTEM HE DESIGNED!
ONCE, HE WAS THE BEST OFFICER IN TOWN!
BUT... THE YEARS CAN DO UGLY THINGS TO A MAN!
IN ANY CASE, SOMEONE WANTS HIM DEAD! I MEAN TO SAVE HIS LIFE...
...AND MAYBE HIS REPUTATION, TOO!
LATER THAT EVENING, AT LUKEY'S ARCADE...
EDDY! HOW'S THE BOY?
WE BEEN WAITIN' FOR YUH!
YOUR FAVORITE GAME--ACES HIGH--, IS ALL WARMED UP AND HUNGRY FOR YER DIMES!
YE-AH, OKAY... WILL DO!
GYRU
7

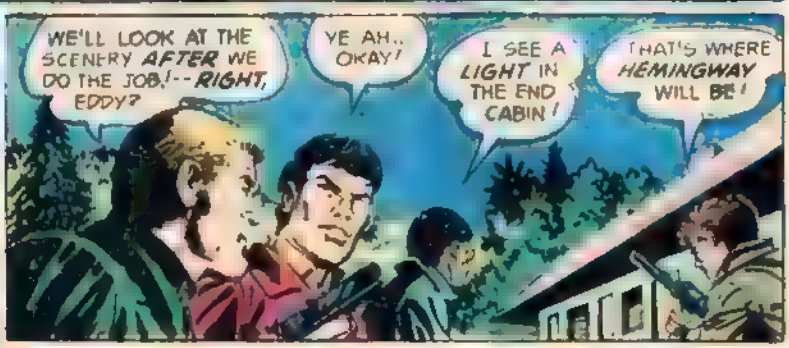

SEE--? HE LOOKS LIKE EDDY... TALKS LIKE EDDY...
ACES HIGH
...BUT HE AIN'T EDDY!
I CONNED EDDY INTO PLAYIN' PINBALL... WHEN WE ALL KNOW HE NEVER PLAYS THE MACHINES!
BABY, WE'VE LUCKED INTO A SWEET SITUATION!
YOU NUTS? THIS PHONEY'S GOTTA BE THE BATMAN!
SURE... THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE! AND I GOT PLANS FOR HIM!
WE LET EDDY-BATS FIND THE HEMINGWAY GUY FOR US-- COLLECT THE MONEY FOR THE KILL...
...AN' FINISH THE CAPER BY DOIN' THE WORLD A FAVOR AND BLOWIN' THE BATMAN AWAY!
BABY, OUR REPS ARE GONNA BE BIGGER'N A BLIMP!
HEY, EDDY! YOU'RE A BIG BRAIN... YOU GOT ANY PLANS FOR LOCATIN' HEMINGWAY?
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT! I BEEN CHECKIN' AROUND...
... FOUND OUT HEMINGWAY IS PART OWNER OF A MOTEL UPSTATE!
FIGURES--THAT'S WHERE HE HEADED!
FIGURES--THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADED!
ED, YA MISSED YOUR CALLIN'! YOU SHOULD'A BEEN ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW!
LUKEY'S ARCADE
LITTLE JOKE THERE, EDDY! FUNNY, HUH? DON'T IT MURDER YA?
8



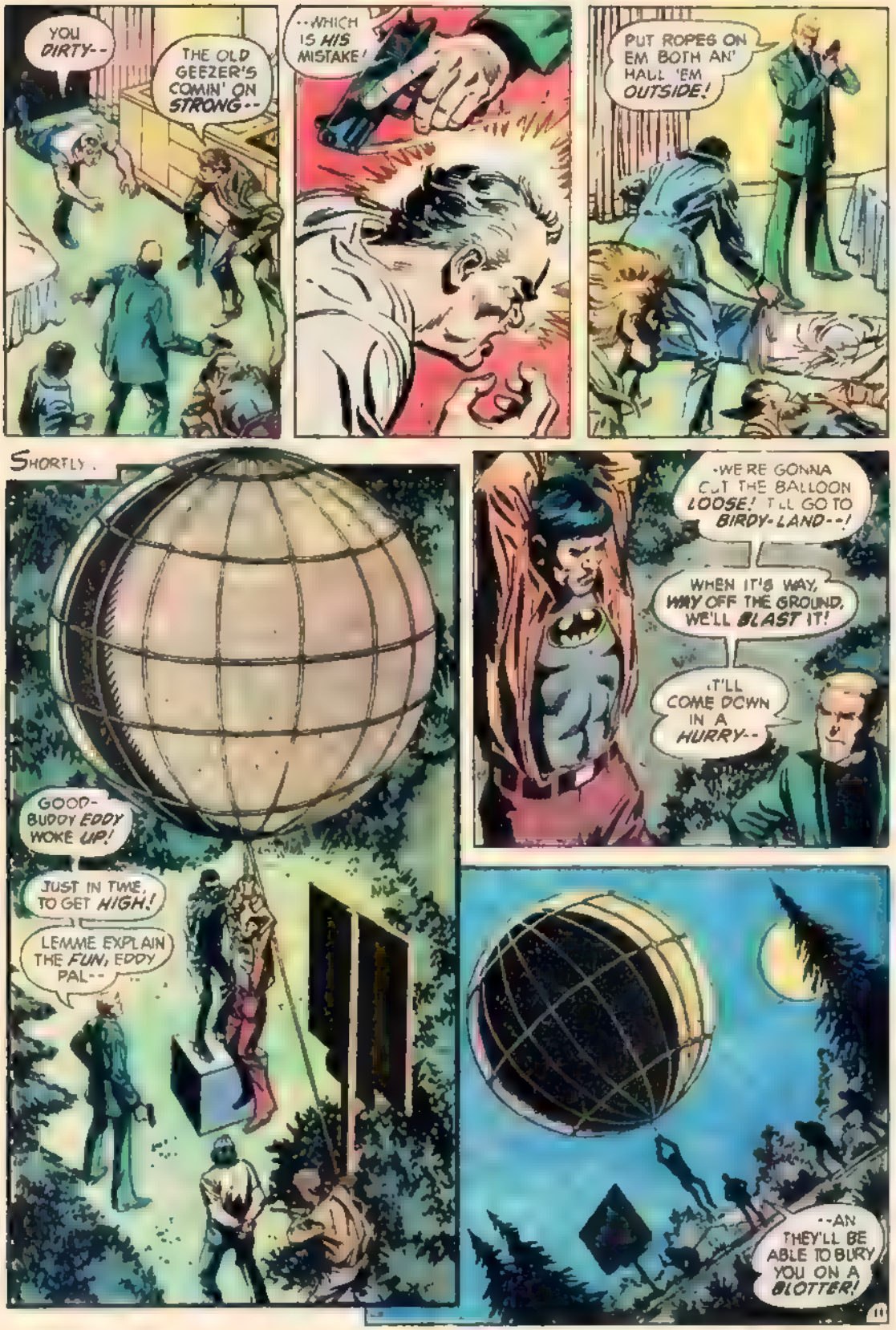
GLOATING HILARIOUSLY, THEY LEAVE, BOUND ON A MISSION OF DEATH...


LATER, THE GANG ARRIVES AT A RESORT MOTEL.
THE SIGN SAYS VACANCY!
I GUESS IT'S TOO LATE IN THE SEASON FOR CUSTOMERS!
LONESOME PINE MOTEL
VACANCY




WE'LL LOOK AT THE SCENERY AFTER WE DO THE JOB!--RIGHT, EDDY?
YE AH.. OKAY!
I SEE A LIGHT IN THE END CABIN!
THAT'S WHERE HEMINGWAY WILL BE!

WHA--WHO ARE YOU?
WE'RE YOUR EXECUTION SQUAD, HEMINGWAY!
CRASH!
AND THIS IS OUR PAL, EDDY--
--ALIAS THE BATMAN!
DIDN'T FIGURE HIM TO MAKE HIS MOVE NOW...
WOK!
CHOO!
THERE'S THE CLINCHER--HE'S WEARIN' HIS BATCOSTUME!
HERE'S WHERE I MAKE 'IM THE LATE BATMAN!
HOLD IT! KILLIN' HIM WILL BE MORE KICKS IF HE'S AWAKE!
BESIDES... I GOT AN IDEA FOR SOME FUN!
10


YOU DIRTY--
THE OLD GEEZER'S COMIN' ON STRONG--
--WHICH IS HIS MISTAKE!
PUT ROPES ON EM BOTH AN' HAUL 'EM OUTSIDE!
SHORTLY.
GOOD-BUDDY EDDY WOKE UP!
JUST IN TIME, TO GET HIGH!
LEMME EXPLAIN THE FUN, EDDY PAL--
-WE'RE GONNA CUT THE BALLOON LOOSE! I'LL GO TO BIRDY-LAND--!
WHEN IT'S WAY, WAY OFF THE GROUND, WE'LL BLAST IT!
-I'LL COME DOWN IN A HURRY--
--AN THEY'LL BE ABLE TO BURY YOU ON A BLOTTER!

RELAX, CHUM--WHATEVER GOES UP...COMES DOWN!
--ONLY YOU'LL BE TOO DEAD TO KNOW IT!
HEY--LOOK WHAT HE'S DOIN'!
HE'S PULLIN' HIMSELF ONTO THE BALLOON!
A FAT LOTTA GOOD THAT'LL DO HIM!
12

HE'S GOIN' BANANAS!-- BITIN' THE BALLOON--!
- BITIN' A HOLE IN THE BALLOON!
THE ESCAPIN' GAS IS CARRYIN' HIM FAST TOWARD THOSE TREES!
FORGET THE BLASTED BALLOON!
AIM STRAIGHT AT THE BATMAN!
HE'S TRYIN' TO LIVE UP TO HIS REP AS THE WORLD'S GREATEST ESCAPE ARTIST!
HERE'S WHERE HE DIES TRYIN'!
NO--!
POW! BRAK-BRAKA-- KRAK!
STOP!
THE GEEZER TOOK A GUT-FULL OF LEAD!
YEAH--AN' WHILE THAT WAS HAPPENIN', THE BATMAN DROPPED OUTA SIGHT!
13

HE'S IN THOSE WOODS SOMEWHERE! LET'S GO LOOKIN' FOR HIM--
--AND MAKE OURSELVES AN OPEN TARGET FOR HIM? NO WAY!
BESIDES, WE DID WHAT WE CAME FOR... FINISHED HEMINGWAY!--
--LET'S SCRAM!
AS THE GANGSTERS FLEE, THE MASTER ESCAPE ARTIST, HIS SUPERB MUSCLES FIRED BY FURY, FREES HIMSELF.
HAL!
I SAW WHAT YOU DID FOR ME--
--AND I'M SORRY!
I HAD TO BE CERTAIN YOU WEREN'T INVOLVED WITH THAT GANG!
WHEN YOU ATTACKED THEM IN YOUR ROOM, I KNEW YOU WERE IN THE CLEAR!
G-GOT CONFUSED, BATMAN... RAN B-BECAUSE I...
DEAD... AND IT'S MY FAULT!
I DOUBTED HIM...
...I ALLOWED MYSELF TO BE SLUGGED FROM BEHIND TWICE, LIKE A STUPID BEGINNER...
I OWE HAL HEMINGWAY...
..AND I SWEAR TO PAY THE DEBT-- IN FULL!
14

THE STILL, SMALL HOURS OF MORNING... AND THE WHISTLE OF A SPEEDING EXPRESS SCREAMS THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE LIKE A VENGEFUL WRAITH...
...INSIDE, THERE IS GLOATING MIXED WITH A TOUCH OF DREAD...
WE COULDN'T GET A PLANE FROM GOTHAM, BUT THIS TRAIN'LL PUT US IN D.C.! NEXT STOP--
--SOUTH AMERICA!
CAN'T BE TOO SOON--
--I WANNA GET AT LEAST A CONTINENT BETWEEN ME AN'... HIM!
I'M GOIN' OUT TO THE PLATFORM AN' HAVE A SMOKE!
UNNGH!
19

MAN, THIS LOOT IS THE END OF THE RAINBOW! IT'LL BUY THE HAPPIES!
YOU'LL MEET HIM IN PRISON!
SAY... WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING MOOCH?
THE BATMAN--!
H-HOW'D YOU FIND US?
I KNEW WHERE YOU HAD TO GO TO COLLECT YOUR BLOOD-MONEY-- AND I FOLLOWED YOU FROM THERE!
YOU WERE DECOYS, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO STEAL ANYTHING FROM THE FACTORY--
I'M LEAVIN'-- NOW!
YOUR ORDERS WERE TO BE SEEN SLINKING AROUND, PLAYING BURGLAR!
YOU EVEN HAD ME FOOLED!--UNTIL I WAS FORCED TO THINK!

OKAY--OKAY--I--I'LL SPILL EVERYTHING...
I'M WAITING
REAL SNEAKY, HUH--?
I WAS HOPING YOU'D FIGHT--!
AND WHEN THE TRAIN HALTS AT THE NEAREST STATION
OUR PHONE-TIP WAS RIGHT! HERE THEY ARE!
YEAH... BUT NOBODY SAID THEY'D BEEN HIT BY A TRUCK!
SEVERAL HOURS LATER, ON A HUSHED SUBURBAN STREET...
AT LAST WE HAVE THEM--THE PLANS FOR THE FASION-REACTOR!
THEY COST US A COOL MILLION. BUT THEY'RE WORTH EVERY PENNY!
YOU DON'T CARE THAT THEY'RE STOLEN--
17

--THAT THEY COST THE LIFE OF A DECENT MAN YOU'VE NEVER MET?
YOU UPSTANDING CITIZENS ARE WORSE THAN THE CRIMINALS YOU EMPLOY!
YOU MAKE ME--
--SICK!
NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED NAILING THESE TWO...THEY'RE A POLICE MATTER! BUT THIS CASE IS DIFFERENT!
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO END IT!
FINALLY...BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAY SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF GOTHAM CITY...
I'M RICH...A MILLIONAIRE... RICH AS A KING AND SAFE...
NOBODY CAN PENETRATE THE SECURITY SYSTEM!
18

CARE TO BET--TOM WILSON?
EH--?
B-B-B-BATMAN! YOU CAUGHT THE THIEVES--?
YES... INCLUDING THE BRAINS OF THE GANG--YOU!
M-ME?! RIDICULOUS!
YES, YOU--THE PLANT-MANAGER! YOU HIRED THE THUGS TO COVER YOUR OWN THEFT OF THE PLANS!
YOU GOT THEM IN BY SIMPLY SHUTTING OFF THE ALARM SYSTEM! THERE NEVER WAS A LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY TO SOLVE!
BUT HEMINGWAY... HE RAN--!
--BECAUSE HE SAW YOU SLUG ME FROM BEHIND!
YOUR ACTION CONFUSED HIM!
HE WENT INTO HIDING...TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO!
I'LL SPLIT IT WITH YOU... HALF A MILLION-- FOR DOING NOTHING...
19

I'LL RETURN IT ALL! ONLY --P-PLEASE ... DON'T HURT ME!
I'D LIKE TO POUND YOUR ROTTEN BONES TO DUST... BUT THERE'S BEEN TOO MUCH VIOLENCE ALREADY!
CALL THE POLICE!
TURN YOURSELF IN!
REST IN PEACE
HAL HEMINGWAY
1808 — 1874
20
END

I'M BATMAN'S SILKEN ROPE! YOU MAY NOT THINK I LOOK LIKE MUCH OF A WEAPON...
...BUT READ THIS STORY AND YOU'LL SEE HOW THE BATMAN USED A "BATROPE" TO SAVE HIS LIFE AND CAPTURE A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL... BOTH AT THE SAME TIME!
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
THEY WERE HUNTED MEN... CRIMINALS AT LARGE... THEIR FACES STARING OUT OF EVERY REWARD POSTER IN THE STATES! BUT THEY WERE VALUABLE THESE OUTLAWS ...VALUABLE BECAUSE OF THE PRICE ON THEIR HEADS! HUMAN BOOTY INDEED THIS BAND OF HOUNDED MEN AFRAID OF THEIR OWN SHADOWS! BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE JACKALS OF GANGLAND GO AFTER THIS LEGAL BOOTY? YES... WHEN CROOKS GO ROBBER HUNTING THEY SNARE MORE THAN THEY BARGAINED FOR IN THE LITHE CAPED FORMS OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER CROOK-CATCHERS EXTRAORDINARY! FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF A TRIO OF THIEVES WHO FORGOT TO REMEMBER THAT TOO MANY CROOKS SPOIL THE BROTH IN... "CRIME'S MAN-HUNT"
$7,500
$5,000
$10,000
$20,000
$5,000
$1,500
$5,000
$10,000
HILARITY HOLDS SWAY IN THE FASHIONABLE HOME OF CARTER VAN ALT AS A ROLLICKING CONGA LINE WEAVES ACROSS THE DANCE FLOOR...
ONE-TWO-THREE-KICK!
ART BY: DICK SPRANG
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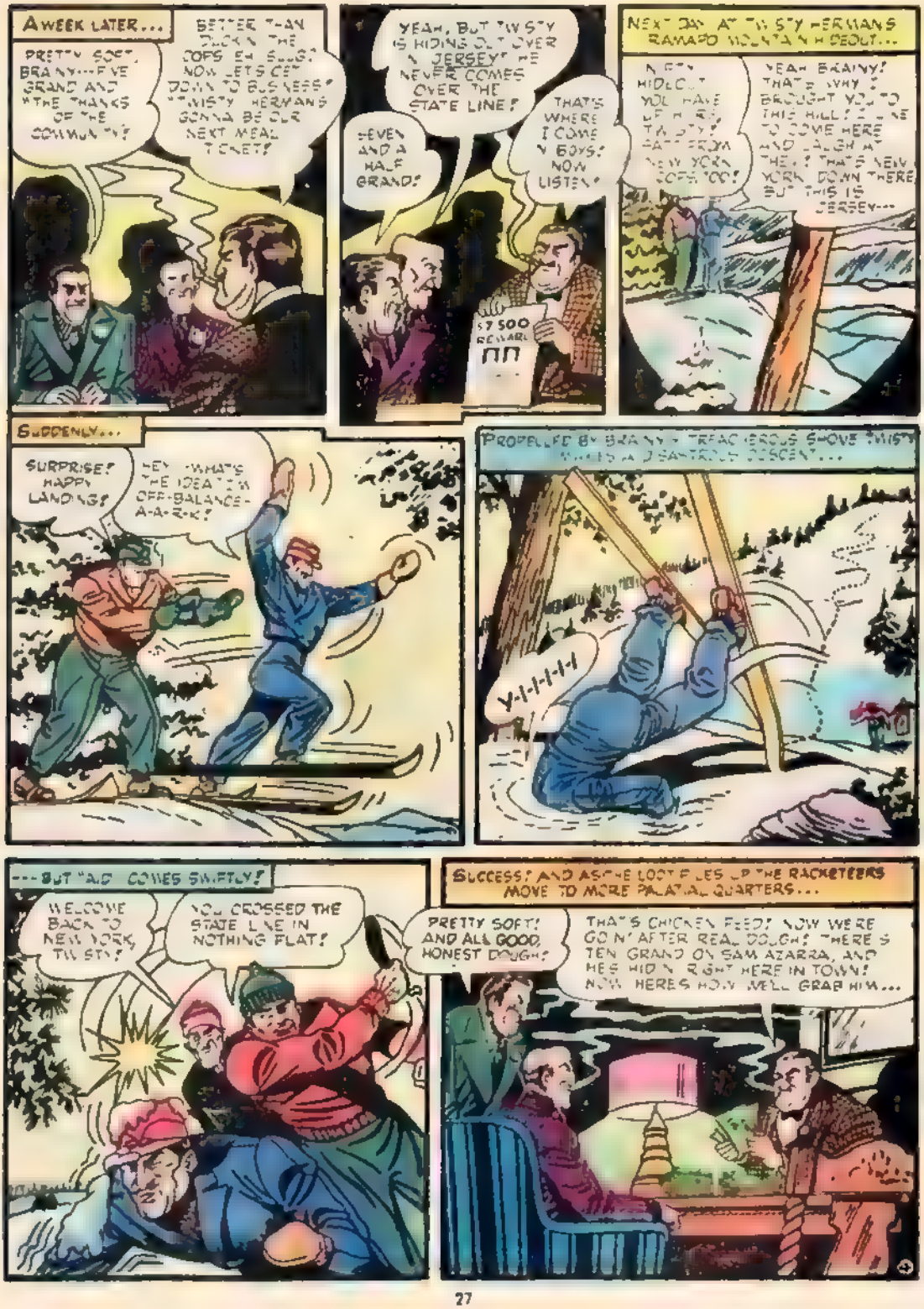
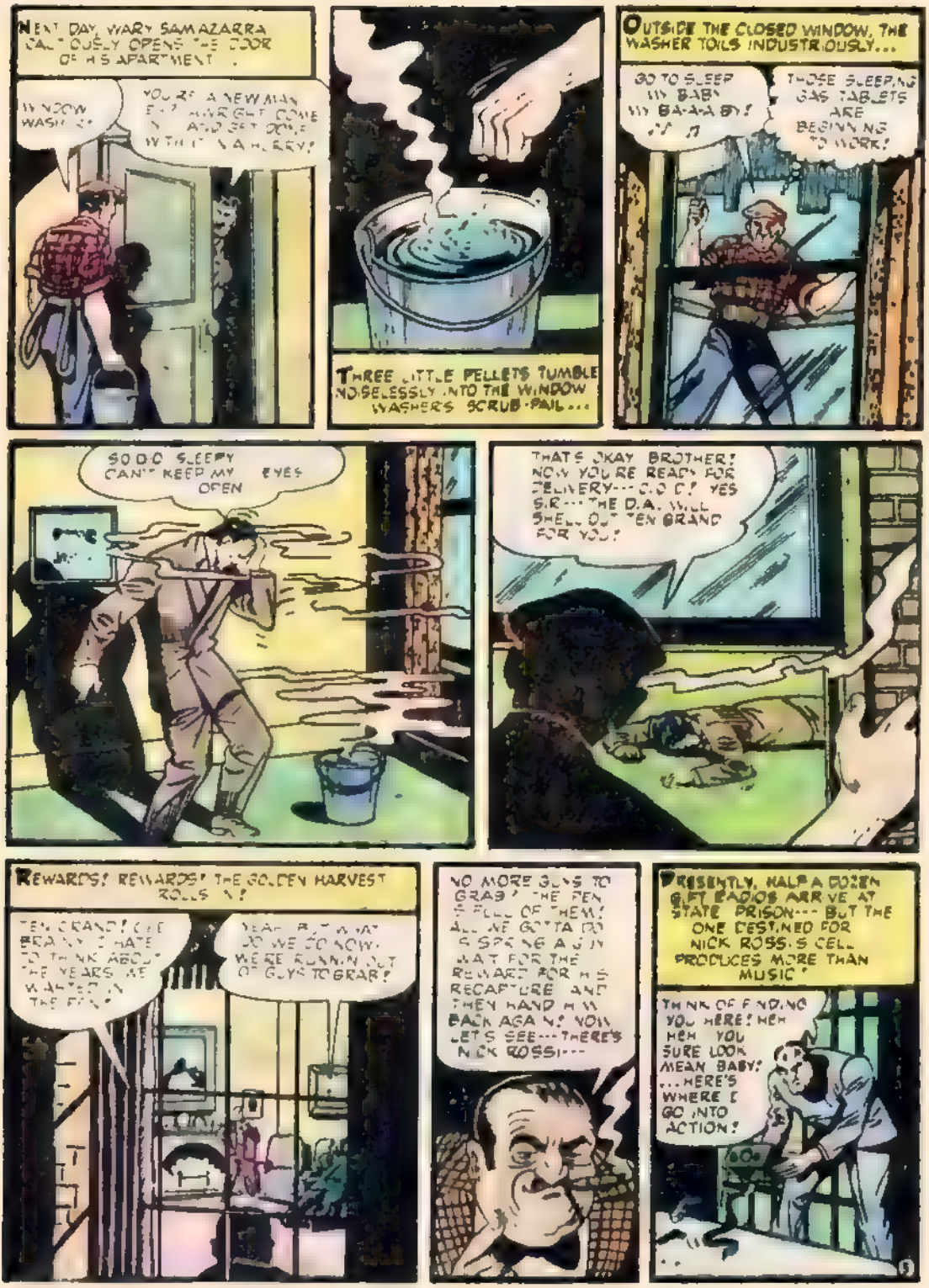
CRIME'S MANHUNT

SUDDENLY THREE GRIM FIGURES MENACE THE MERRYMAKERS...
KEEP SWINGING FOLKS! RIGHT THIS WAY... AND KEEP YOUR HANDS HIGH!
THE WATERS!
OH! OH! ...IT'S A HOLD-UP! ... MY JEWELS!
AH-AH! NO HOLDING OUT! IS THAT NICE!
CAN'T SOMEBODY STOP THEM?
THEN, MIRACULOUSLY, THAT DESPERATE PLEA IS ANSWERED--FROM THE BALLROOM'S CRYSTAL-DOMED ROOF..
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
COMING!
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!
STRAIGHT FOR THEIR MARK THE DYNAMIC DUO PLUNGE!
THAT'S MY CONTRIBUTION!
SORRY MINE MISSED THE BAG!
THESE AREN'T YOUR WAITERS VAN ALT! THEY KNOCKED OUT THE REGULAR MEN AND TOOK THEIR PLACES!
NEXT MOMENT, THE FLASH OF THE BATARANG THRU SPACE, AND THE TRIO ARE SNARLED IN BOLO FASHION...
THREE BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!
AND THE BIRDS BECOME JAIL BIRDS...
CRIME...
DON'T..
PAY!!

ONE YEAR LATER - THREE DISILLUSIONED EX CONVICTS FACE THE BLEAK FUTURE
WE MIGHT AS WELL BE BACK IN THE BIG HOUSE! THE RACKETS IS ALL WASHED UP!
YEAH... WITH THE BATMAN AROUND, A FELLOW CAN'T MAKE AN HONEST DOLLAR!
AN HONEST DOLLAR--- YOU GOT SOMETHIN' THERE, SLUG! THE RACKETS ARE WASHED UP! BUT I GOT AN IDEA---A RACKET THAT'S SAFE AND LEGITIMATE! LOOKA HERE---
$5000 REWARD
BOBO NELSON
WANTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND FELONIOUS ASSAULT.
USE YOUR BRAINS THE WAY I DO SLUG! WE BRING IN BOBO--AND THAT FIVE GRAND IS OURS! THEN WE CAN GO AFTER DOZENS OF THE OTHER REWARDS! LISTEN
YEAH, BUT WHAT'S THAT TO US?
SEE, BRAINY-- IT'S A PERFECT RACKET-- AN' HONEST TOO!
LOOK BOBO WAS SHOT DURING THAT HOLD-UP! HE'S HOLIN' OUT WITH HEINY DOPP AND THE DOC SEES HIM EVERYDAY! NOW, SLUG, WE RIG YOU UP LIKE THE DOC AND THEN---
THE NEXT MORNING... HEINY OPENS HIS DOOR TO THE DOCTOR AS USUAL---BUT---
TODAY YOU COME EARLY, DOCTOR, NO? YOU---
THIS IS WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED, HEINY!
BOBO NELSON'S USUAL QUICK SUSPICION IS DULLED BY FEAR...
WHAT'S THE MATTER DOC? AIN'T IT COMIN ALONG OKAY?
NOT SO GOOD BOBO! I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A SLEEPING POWDER!
MINUTES LATER...
HE'LL BE FAST ASLEEP FOR HOURS!
GREAT, BOYS! WHAT'D I TELL YOU? EASY AS ROLLIN' OFF A LOG!

CRIME'S MANHUNT


A WEEK LATER...
PRETTY SOFT, BRAINY--FIVE GRAND AND NO THANKS OF THE COMMUNITY!
BETTER THAN DUCKIN' THE COPS EN SLUGS! NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! TWISTY HERMANS GONNA BE OUR NEXT MEAL TICKET!
YEAH, BUT TWISTY IS HIDING OUT OVER IN JERSEY! HE NEVER COMES OVER THE STATE LINE!
SEVEN AND A HALF GRAND!
THAT'S WHERE I COME IN BOYS! NOW LISTEN!
$7500 REWARD
NEXT DAY AT TWISTY HERMANS RAMAPO MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT...
NICE HIDEOUT YOU HAVE UP HERE, TWISTY! FAR FROM NEW YORK COPS, TOO!
YEAH BRAINY! THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU TO THIS HILL! TIME TO COME HERE AND LAUGH AT THEM! THAT'S NEW YORK DOWN THERE BUT THIS IS JERSEY...
SUDDENLY...
SURPRISE! HAPPY LANDING!
HEY--WHAT'S THE IDEA? I'M OFF-BALANCE-A-A-R-K!
PROPELLED BY BRAINY'S TREACHEROUS SHOVE TWISTY HURTLES A SANTOS DESCENT...
Y-I-I-I-I-I
---BUT AID COMES SWIFTLY!
WELCOME BACK TO NEW YORK, TWISTY!
YOU CROSSED THE STATE LINE IN NOTHING FLAT!
SUCCESS! AND AS THE LOOT FILES UP THE RACKETEERS MOVE TO MORE PALATIAL QUARTERS...
PRETTY SOFT! AND ALL GOOD, HONEST DOUGH!
THAT'S CHICKEN FEED! NOW WE'RE GO'N' AFTER REAL DOUGH! THERE'S TEN GRAND ON SAM AZARRA, AND HE'S HID'N RIGHT HERE IN TOWN! NOW HERE'S HOW WE'LL GRAB HIM...

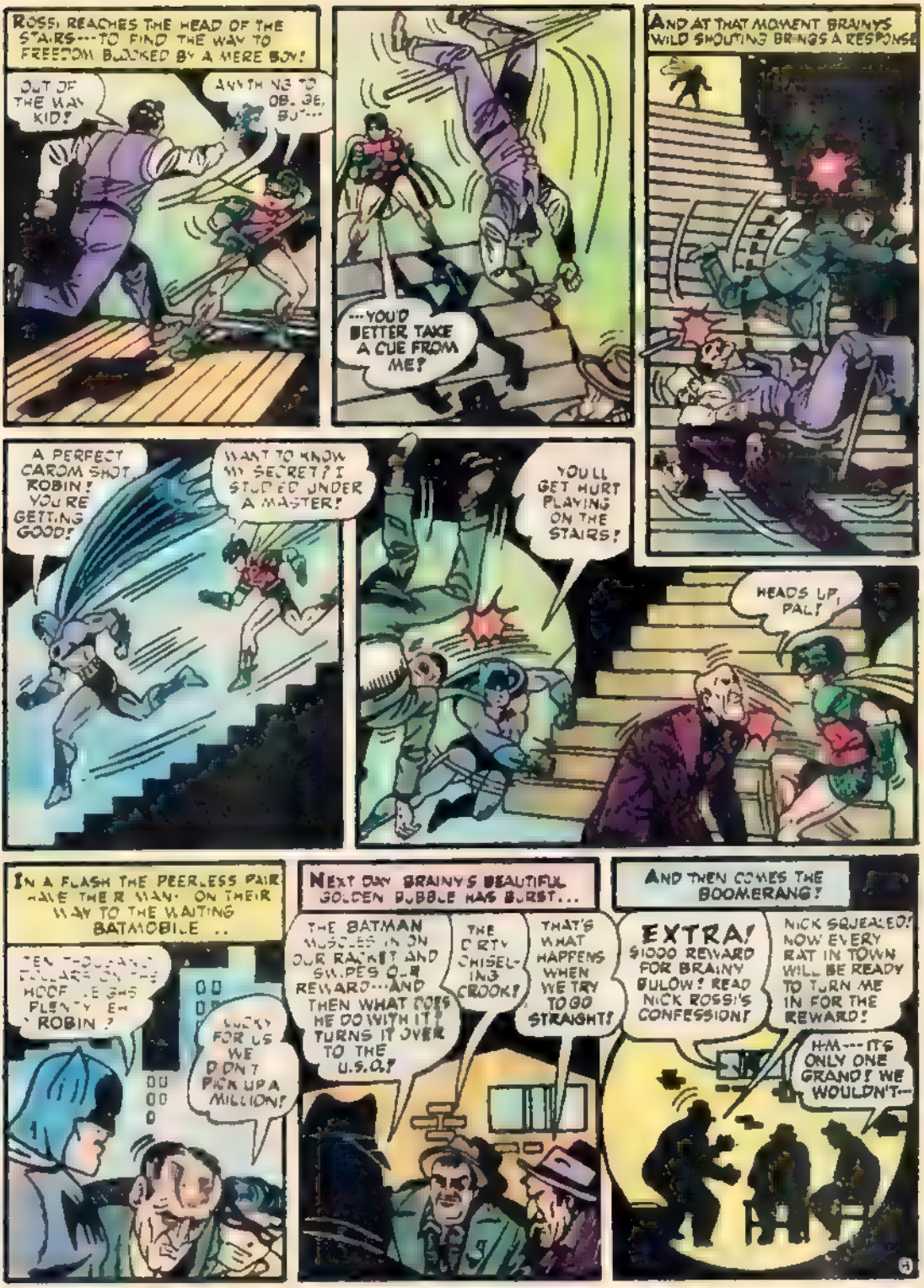

NEXT DAY, WARY SAMAZARRA CAUTIOUSLY OPENS THE DOOR OF HIS APARTMENT...
WINDOW WASHER!
YOU'RE A NEW MAN EACH MORNING! COME IN AND SET DOWN WITH A HALLELUJAH!
THREE LITTLE PELLETS TUMBLE NOISELESSLY INTO THE WINDOW WASHER'S SCRUB-PAIL...
OUTSIDE THE CLOSED WINDOW, THE WASHER TOILS INDUSTRIOUSLY...
GO TO SLEEP MY BABY MY BA-BA-BY! ♪♪ ♫
THOSE SLEEPING GAS TABLETS ARE BEGINNING TO WORK!
SO-O-O SLEEPY CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OPEN
THAT'S OKAY BROTHER! NOW YOU'RE READY FOR DELIVERY--- C-O-D! YES SIR--- THE D.A. WILL SHELL OUT TEN GRAND FOR YOU!
REWARDS! REWARDS! THE GOLDEN HARVEST ROLLS IN!
TEN GRAND! CAN BE A LOT! I HATE TO THINK ABOUT THE YEARS WE WASTED IN THE PEN!
YEAH--- BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW! WE'RE RUNNIN' OUT OF GUYS TO GRAB!
NO MORE GUYS TO GRAB! THE PEN'S FULL OF THEM! ALL WE GOTTA DO IS SPRING A JAIL BREAK FOR THE REWARD FOR HIS RECAPTURE AND THEY HAND IT IN BACK AGAIN! NOW LET'S SEE--- THERE'S NICK ROSSI---
PRESENTLY, HALF A DOZEN GIFT RADIOS ARRIVE AT STATE PRISON--- BUT THE ONE DESTINED FOR NICK ROSSI'S CELL PRODUCES MORE THAN MUSIC!
THINK OF FINDING YOU HERE! HEH HEH YOU SURE LOOK MEAN BABY! ...HERE'S WHERE I GO INTO ACTION!

CRIME'S MANHUNT

"ACTION!"
GUARD! HELP! THAT SNAKE'LL KILL ME!
STAND STILL ROSSI! I'LL KILL IT!
SHAME ON YOU, YOU BIG BULLY---HITTING A POOR LITTLE SNAKE!
THE GUN AND THE GUARD'S UNIFORM OPEN THE PRISON DOORS-- TO WHERE BRAINY WAITS. .
"THANKS, BRAINY! YOU'RE A SWELL GUY!
HIYA, NICK!
AND NOW, THE NEXT ACT IN THIS DRAMA OF DUPLICITY..
SO TONIGHT HENCHELL WILL BROADCAST THE TIP I SENT HIM, AND ROSSI WILL BE SCARED STIFF! I COME TO SNEAK HIM OUT OF TOWN--- AND YOU TWO SOCK HIM WHEN WE COME OUT!
BUT THAT NIGHT WALLY HENCHELL'S GOSSIP BROADCAST IS PICKED UP BY UNEXPECTED EARS...
...AND I HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT PUBLIC ENEMY NICK ROSSI IS HIDING IN A CERTAIN WATERFRONT BOWLING ALLEY...
"A WATERFRONT BOWLING ALLEY---THAT MUST BE DUNN'S! SUPPOSE WE TAKE A LOOK, ROBIN?
LATER...
THIS ROOM OUGHT TO LEAD INTO THE ALLEYS---RIGHT UP BEHIND THE BOWLERS! ---HERE I GO!
EIGHT BELL-NO YOU!
THE BATMAN!
HUH-
WHO TOLD HIM I WAS HIDING OUT HERE?

I GET IT NOW! BRANDY - YOU'RE A DOUBLE-CROSSING RAT! YOU SPRUNG ME OUT OF STIR... AND NOW YOU'RE HANDING ME OVER TO THE BATMAN FOR THE REWARD!
NO NO! I DIDN'T! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...
AND WHILE THE CRIMINALS QUARREL AMONG THEMSELVES, THE BATMAN GALLANTLY GOES INTO ACTION...
SO BRANDY'S OUT TO GRAB ANOTHER REWARD? MAYBE WE CAN BAIL HIM UP!
OH BOY! JUST THE GAME I WANTED!
BUT NOT EVEN THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER CAN STEM THE TIDE OF THUGS...
I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOU BATMAN!
OKAY NICK... CHALK IT UP THERE!
SCORE
MEANWHILE THE LAUGHING BOY WONDER HAS A LITTLE FLING...
COME ON AND GET YOUR EARS PINNED BACK!
GET THE LITTLE BRAT!
BUT A PIECE OF CHALK PROVES THE STALWART YOUNG DAREDEVILS UNDOING...
OHHH.. I'M SLIPPING!
RIGHT..AND I'M GONNA SOCK YOU A HAYMAKER!
NOT WHILE I CAN MAKE HAY FIRST THIS WAY!
STRIKE!

CRIME'S MANHUNT


ROSSI REACHES THE HEAD OF THE STAIRS---TO FIND THE WAY TO FREEDOM BLOCKED BY A MERE BOY!
OUT OF THE WAY KID!
ANYTHING TO OBLIGE, BUT---
---YOU'D BETTER TAKE A CUE FROM ME!
AND AT THAT MOMENT BRAINY'S WILD SHOUTING BRINGS A RESPONSE
A PERFECT CAROM SHOT ROBIN! YOU'RE GETTING GOOD!
WANT TO KNOW MY SECRET? I STUDIED UNDER A MASTER!
YOU'LL GET HURT PLAYING ON THE STAIRS!
HEADS UP, PAL!
IN A FLASH THE PEERLESS PAIR HAVE THEIR MAN ON THEIR WAY TO THE WAITING BATMOBILE ..
TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS ON THE HOOF, EH? THAT'S PLENTY FOR US, ROBIN!
LUCKY FOR US WE DON'T PICK UP A MILLION!
NEXT DAY BRAINY'S BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN BUBBLE HAS BURST...
THE BATMAN MUSCLES IN ON OUR RACKET AND SWIPES OUR REWARD---AND THEN WHAT DOES HE DO WITH IT? TURNS IT OVER TO THE U.S.O.!
THE DIRTY CHISELING CROOK!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TRY TO GO STRAIGHT!
AND THEN COMES THE BOOMERANG!
EXTRA! $1000 REWARD FOR BRAINY BULOW! READ NICK ROSSI'S CONFESSION!
NICK SQUEALED! NOW EVERY RAT IN TOWN WILL BE READY TO TURN ME IN FOR THE REWARD!
H-M--- IT'S ONLY ONE GRAND! WE WOULDN'T---

IN FAR MORE COMFORTABLE SURROUNDINGS THE SAME HEADLINES INTEREST BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...
HM-M---SO THERE'S A REWARD OUT FOR BRAINY FOR HELPING ROSS! BREAK JAIL! THAT'S ONE REWARD BRAINY WON'T GO AFTER!
BUT THE BATMAN WILL! TURNING IN CROOKS FOR THE REWARDS IS ONE THING--- BUT ARRANGING JAIL-BREAKS IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER!
the NEWS
HUGE REWARD FOR BR
BRAINY WILL BE IN HIDING, SO WE'LL NEED BAIT TO BRING HIM OUT--- BAT HE CAN'T RESIST! LET'S SEE NOW...
MAYBE SOME OF THESE ROGUES GALLERY VALENTINES WILL HELP YOU!
SO, IN A FEW DAYS, A NEW REWARD NOTICE IS CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT GOTHAM CITY...
$25,000 REWARD
FOR THE CAPTURE OF
SOUPY McCUE
ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 10TH THIS VETERAN CRACKSMAN AND EX CONVICT BROKE INTO THE SAFE OF THE GOTHAM JEWELERS AND MADE OFF WITH GEMS TO THE VALUE OF MORE THAN $250 000. THE MISSING GEMS ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
THE FERRET EYES OF THE UNDERWORLD SPY THE STARTLING POSTERS...
TWENTY-FIVE GRAND! AND NO QUESTIONS ASKED! OH BOY!
GEE, I'D TURN MYSELF IN FOR THAT!
WHO IS THIS SOUPY McCUE?
$25,000 REW SOUPY
WHO IS SOUPY McCUE? THAT QUESTION IS ON HUNDREDS OF LIPS, BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW--- UNTIL---
YEAH, I KNOW WHERE SOUPY MCCUE IS HIDING! I TAKE FOOD UP TO HIM EVERY NIGHT!---SLIP ME A HUNDRED SMACKERS AND I'LL TELL YOU WHERE HE IS...
SURE, PAL! HAVE ANOTHER COFFEE! HOW ABOUT SOME PIE?...
HALF AN HOUR LATER...
IT WENT OFF LIKE CLOCKWORK! FOR A COUNTERFEIT HUNDRED-DOLLAR BILL AND A HAMBURGER I GAVE SLIM ALL THE DOPE!
AND TONIGHT WE GO TO WORK!
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
TWENTY-FIVE GRAND! I CAN'T COLLECT IT, BUT SLIM CAN! THEN WE CAN BLOW THIS TOWN AND START UP SOMEWHERE ELSE--- WITH NO PESKY BATMAN TO MUSCLE IN ON US!
IT'S A CINCH, BRAINY!

CRIME'S MANHUNT

MEANWHILE, BRANNY LEADS THE WAY OUT ONTO THE TERRACE OF A PENTHOUSE FAR ABOVE THE SURROUNDING ROOFS...
FINE! THERE'S A LIGHT! SOUPY'S IN THAT TO BE GRABBED!
I TOLD YOU MR. MAGOO ON THE LEVEL!
SOUPY MOUSE THERE HE IS!
SWELL! NOW BE READY WHEN YOU HEAR THE DOOR!
TENSELY BRANNY PRESSES THE BELL AND...
IT'S MIKE SOUPY! I'VE GOT YOUR FOOD!
OKAY, PAL! COME IN!
HOLD IT, SOUPY! WE GOT YOU COVERED!
STICK 'EM UP OR WE'LL BLOW YOU!
BE SURE TO ASK FOR OUR BAG!
BUT SOUPY MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO STICK 'EM UP...
HOLY MACK...
TOO LATE SLIM'S EYES FLASH UPWARD!
THE BATMAN!
TAG... YOU'RE OUT!
UGH-H
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, PERVERSE FATE INTERVENES...
WHACK
BATMAN!

DAZED THE BATMAN IS MOMENTARILY HELPLESS---AND THAT SPLIT SECOND IS ALL BRAINY NEEDS. .
SO YOU TRIED TO SYPE ME AGAIN, EH, BATMAN? BUT I'VE PUT A REWARD ON YOUR HEAD---AND THE NOTICE READS "DEAD OR ALIVE!
LISTEN, BATMAN-LISTEN!
THE TRIGGER-FINGER TIGHTENS--- BUT EVEN AS DEATH BLAZES FROM THE GUN THE BATMAN SPEEDS INTO ACTION...
ROLL, ROBIN--- ROLL! BACK OF THE SETTEE!
SAFE AT FIRST ANYWAY!
BUT THAT'S A LONG WAY FROM HOME!
BANG
BANG
BANG
A FEW SECONDS REPRIEVE -- BUT THE BATMAN ASKS NO MORE---
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
THROUGH THAT BEDROOM DOOR! THIS GADGET OUGHT TO INTEREST OUR FRIEND BRAINY! HERE GOES!
ZING-Z-Z-Z
ZING-Z-Z-Z
HERE'S SOME SOLID THOUGHT FOR YOU, BRAINY!
CLUNK
SAFE IN THE BEDROOM! BUT A THIN WOODEN DOOR IS SLIGHT PROTECTION AGAINST LEAD SLUGS...
THIS GAME GURE IS TOUGH ON FURNITURE!
ONE DOOR IS SAFE---BUT IN FROM THE OTHER...
DON'T BLAME ME FOR THAT BATMAN--- IT'S THESE GENTS WHO BARGE IN WITHOUT KNOCKING!
HOW DO YOU LIKE MY MAGIC CARPET?
THAT'S TAKING OUT THE INTERFERENCE, ROBIN!

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SMOKE CLOUD

Light one and watch the column of black smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect

No. 971 10c

5 for 89¢

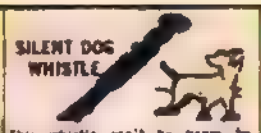
SECRET BOOK SAFE

With Combination Lock ONLY $1.98
Only You Can Open

Looks like any book to camouflage your valuables. Securely locked with your own private combination. Tough under structure is covered with simulated leather binding

No. 780 $1.00

SILENT DOG WHISTLE



This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.

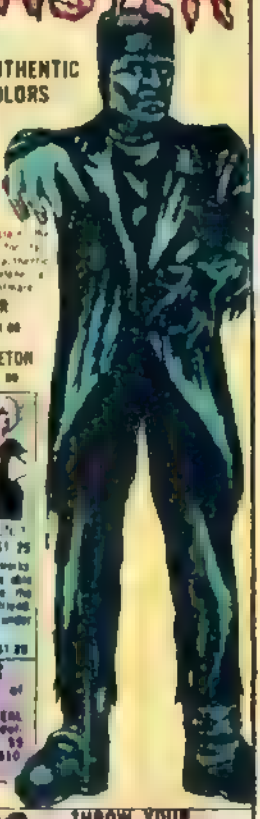
No. 701 $1.00

MONSTER

7 FEET TALL / IN AUTHENTIC COLORS

GLOW in the DARK EYES

ONLY $1.00



7 FOOT MONSTER

No. 865 $1.00

MONSTER SIZE SKELETON

No. 1298 $1.00

MUSCLES OF STEEL

Develop to pull 30 days

Pocket gym. Exert action of muscles on your arms and neck. Even the support of your body—the operation of the grip to and from the wrist—builds powerful muscles of heavy rubber

No. 7001 only $1.00

SKIN HEAD WIG

Real person's hair in the form of a wig. Fits over head of man, woman or child. Looks real. Wear as a gag or for disguise

No. 668 $1.00

FOAMING SUGAR

Looks just like real sugar but that's where the resemblance stops. When it's dropped in liquid they overflow and form streams of suds. Seems as though it'll never stop

No. 849 30c

WORLDS UGLIEST HANDS

Keep these shoddy paws on and watch your friends dive appear sigh. They're awful if you've got the courage, maybe you can have fun with them

Item No. 60" $1.98

JOY BUZZER

Amazing novelty you wear up your sleeve. When you give a [illegible] hand shake all [illegible]

No. 239 Only 75c

XRAY SPECS

As advertised [illegible] $1.25

Scientific optical principle really works! With Xray Specs you seem to be able to see through flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you see under his clothes?

No. [illegible] $1.98

MONEYMAKER

Insert a blank piece of paper here in the back and OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to $10 [illegible] 1.29

ONION GUM

Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like [illegible] it's too funny!

[illegible] to a pack

No. 761 40c

3.98 Weighted Wristlets

Power Packed Iron Bender

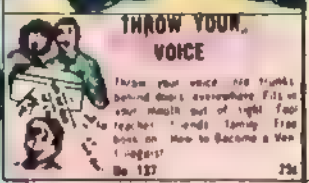
To limber you mighty strong power

[illegible]

WEREWOLF Howl-A-Mask

This rubber mask is so grotesque that it is sure to shake up the whole neighborhood. Be the "Werewolf that prowls again"

No. 266 $1.49



THROW YOUR VOICE

Throw your voice like ventriloquists behind doors everywhere. Fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on How to Become a Ventriloquist

No. 137 25c

FEAR NO MAN

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GUARANTEED 10 Day Trial

KFU...$1.25

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Imitation white plaster arm cast complete with arm sling. Looks like the real thing! Fits teenagers or adults A-4 $1.98

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PEN SIZE—CLIPS ON YOUR POCKET 8 POWER MAGNIFIER

This power wide field magnifier is great for watching sporting events, night sky, bird watching and theater using. Also contains a 30 power microscope. Not a toy but a real optical instrument

No. 758 $1.98

Authentic SUPERMAN Costume

only $6.98

Just slip into this authentic Superman costume, put on the concealing mask, and in seconds you are Superman, that fearless fighter of evil. Made of long lasting fire retarded materials to give you weeks and months of fun. Be the first on your block, the envy of your friends. Send only $6.98

Item # CM100

JACK POT BANK

One penny, two pennies, three pennies, four pennies, five pennies, six pennies, seven pennies, eight pennies, nine pennies, ten pennies, eleven pennies, twelve pennies, thirteen pennies, fourteen pennies, fifteen pennies, sixteen pennies, seventeen pennies, eighteen pennies, nineteen pennies, twenty pennies, twenty-one pennies, twenty-two pennies, twenty-three pennies, twenty-four pennies, twenty-five pennies, twenty-six pennies, twenty-seven pennies, twenty-eight pennies, twenty-nine pennies, thirty pennies, thirty-one pennies, thirty-two pennies, thirty-three pennies, thirty-four pennies, thirty-five pennies, thirty-six pennies, thirty-seven pennies, thirty-eight pennies, thirty-nine pennies, forty pennies, forty-one pennies, forty-two pennies, forty-three pennies, forty-four pennies, forty-five pennies, forty-six pennies, forty-seven pennies, forty-eight pennies, forty-nine pennies, fifty pennies, fifty-one pennies, fifty-two pennies, fifty-three pennies, fifty-four pennies, fifty-five pennies, fifty-six pennies, fifty-seven pennies, fifty-eight pennies, fifty-nine pennies, sixty pennies, sixty-one pennies, sixty-two pennies, sixty-three pennies, sixty-four pennies, sixty-five pennies, sixty-six pennies, sixty-seven pennies, sixty-eight pennies, sixty-nine pennies, seventy pennies, seventy-one pennies, seventy-two pennies, seventy-three pennies, seventy-four pennies, seventy-five pennies, seventy-six pennies, seventy-seven pennies, seventy-eight pennies, seventy-nine pennies, eighty pennies, eighty-one pennies, eighty-two pennies, eighty-three pennies, eighty-four pennies, eighty-five pennies, eighty-six pennies, eighty-seven pennies, eighty-eight pennies, eighty-nine pennies, ninety pennies, ninety-one pennies, ninety-two pennies, ninety-three pennies, ninety-four pennies, ninety-five pennies, ninety-six pennies, ninety-seven pennies, ninety-eight pennies, ninety-nine pennies, one hundred pennies. One penny, two pennies, three pennies, four pennies, five pennies, six pennies, seven pennies, eight pennies, nine pennies, ten pennies, eleven pennies, twelve pennies, thirteen pennies, fourteen pennies, fifteen pennies, sixteen pennies, seventeen pennies, eighteen pennies, nineteen pennies, twenty pennies, twenty-one pennies, twenty-two pennies, twenty-three pennies, twenty-four pennies, twenty-five pennies, twenty-six pennies, twenty-seven pennies, twenty-eight pennies, twenty-nine pennies, thirty pennies, thirty-one pennies, thirty-two pennies, thirty-three pennies, thirty-four pennies, thirty-five pennies, thirty-six pennies, thirty-seven pennies, thirty-eight pennies, thirty-nine pennies, forty pennies, forty-one pennies, forty-two pennies, forty-three pennies, forty-four pennies, forty-five pennies, forty-six pennies, forty-seven pennies, forty-eight pennies, forty-nine pennies, fifty pennies, fifty-one pennies, fifty-two pennies, fifty-three pennies, fifty-four pennies, fifty-five pennies, fifty-six pennies, fifty-seven pennies, fifty-eight pennies, fifty-nine pennies, sixty pennies, sixty-one pennies, sixty-two pennies, sixty-three pennies, sixty-four pennies, sixty-five pennies, sixty-six pennies, sixty-seven pennies, sixty-eight pennies, sixty-nine pennies, seventy pennies, seventy-one pennies, seventy-two pennies, seventy-three pennies, seventy-four pennies, seventy-five pennies, seventy-six pennies, seventy-seven pennies, seventy-eight pennies, seventy-nine pennies, eighty pennies, eighty-one pennies, eighty-two pennies, eighty-three pennies, eighty-four pennies, eighty-five pennies, eighty-six pennies, eighty-seven pennies, eighty-eight pennies, eighty-nine pennies, ninety pennies, ninety-one pennies, ninety-two pennies, ninety-three pennies, ninety-four pennies, ninety-five pennies, ninety-six pennies, ninety-seven pennies, ninety-eight pennies, ninety-nine pennies, one hundred pennies.

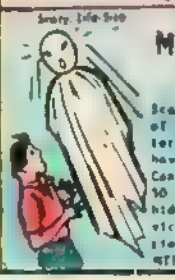
Looks like a regular bank but it's not. Only a penny can be inserted. Any other coin is rejected. Keeps your money safe. Should not be used for gambling

No. 2000 $2.98

SURPRISE PACKAGE

A mystery gift to open. A package we won't tell you what it contains. But we promise you something to surprise and amuse you. Maybe you'll get more than your money's worth

No. 670 Only 30c



MONSTER GHOST

Obeys Your Commands! Over 7 Feet Tall . . .

Scare the daylights out of your "victim" as this terrifying life size ghost hovers and darts over him. Can be controlled up to 10 feet away so you can hide while watching your victim. Complete instructions included

No. [illegible] $1.00

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35 WILBUR ST., LYNBROOK, N.Y. 11563

Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days FREE TRIAL for full refund of purchase price.

We cannot accept orders totaling less than $1.00

NAME & NUMBER OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

Please add 25c to total order for postage and handling.
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

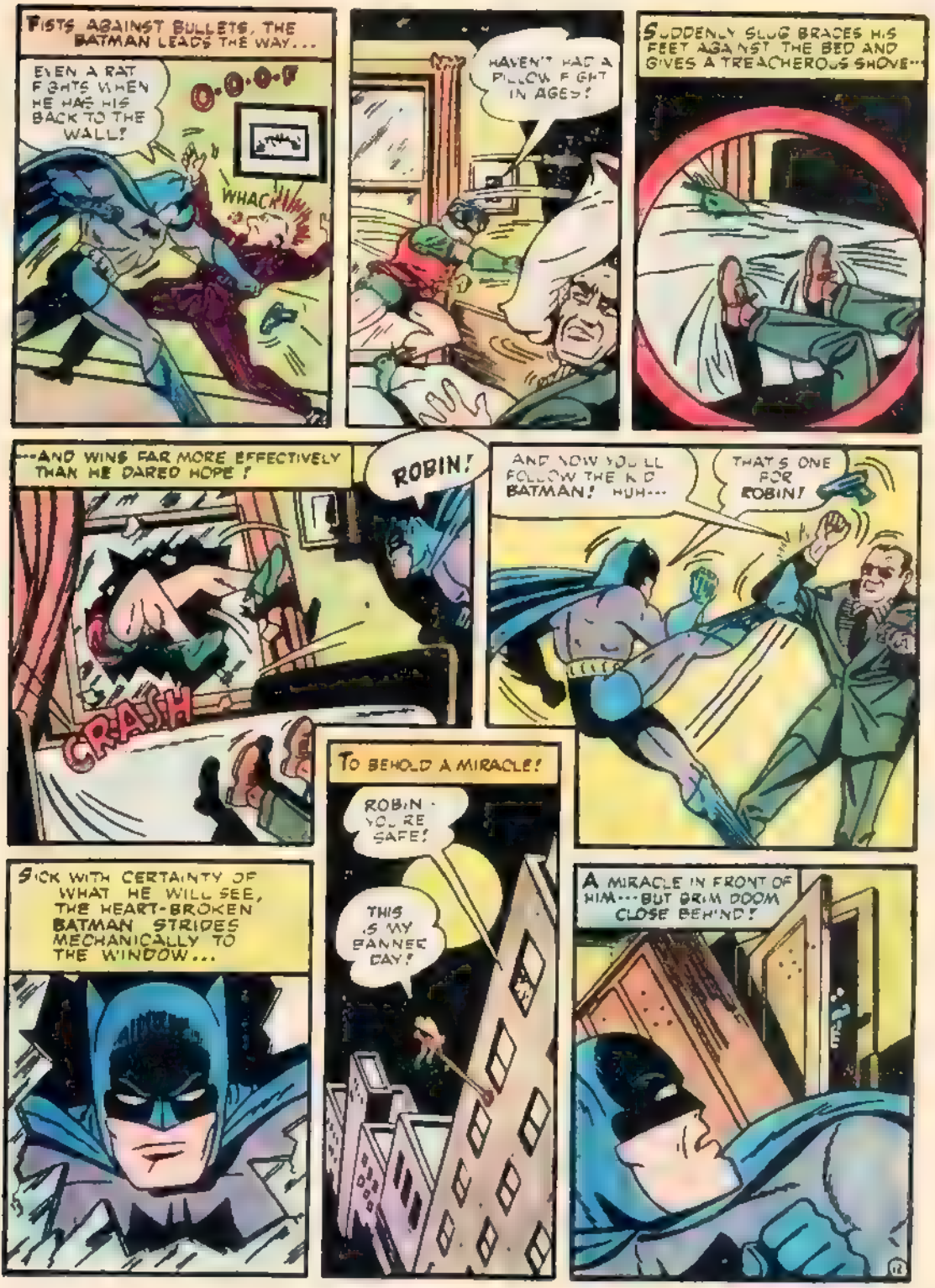
For COD orders please send 50c good will deposit. Pay postman the balance on delivery plus COD and handling charges.

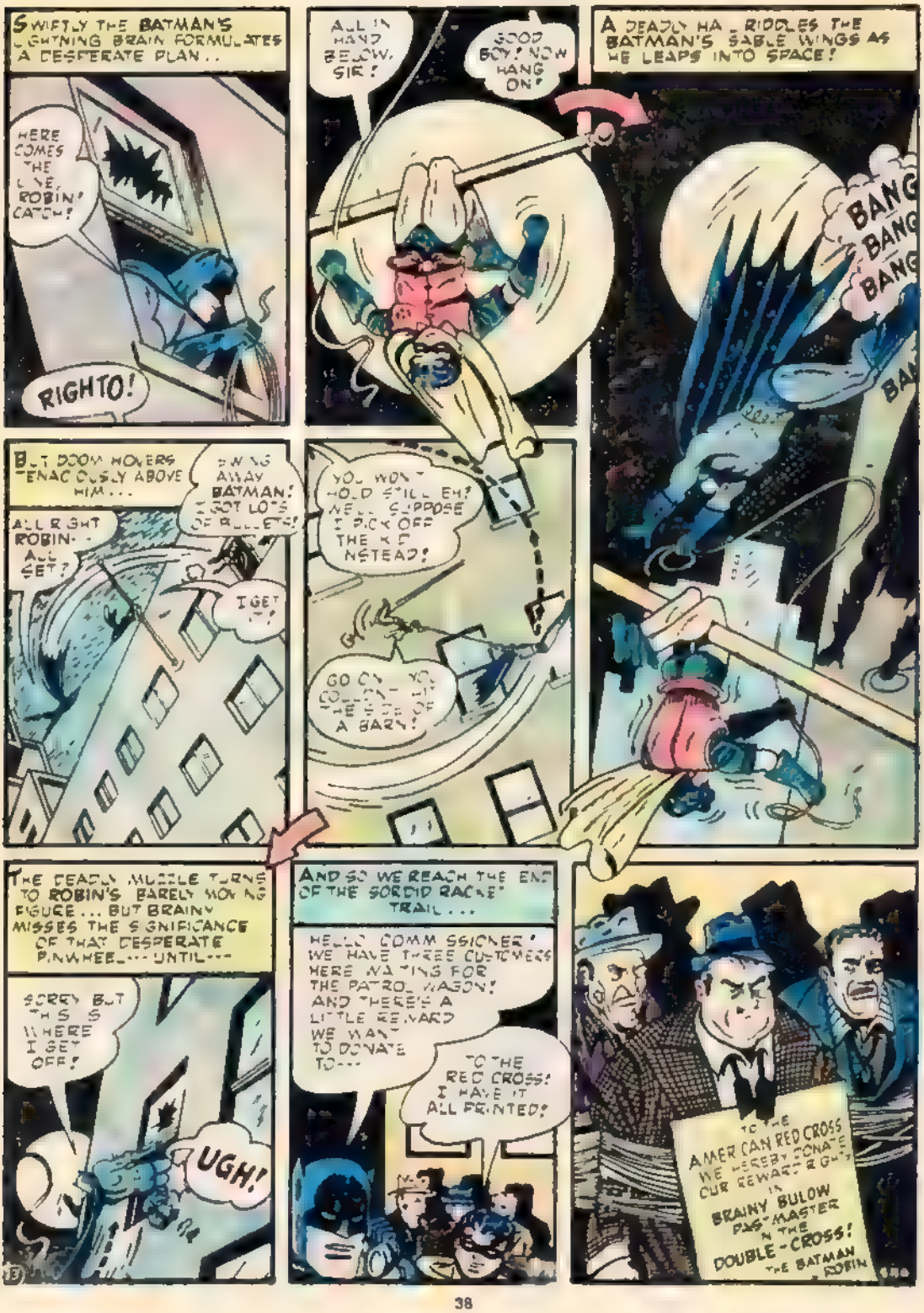
NAME

ADDRESS ZIP

New York State residents add appropriate sales tax.

CRIME'S MANHUNT


FISTS AGAINST BULLETS, THE BATMAN LEADS THE WAY...
EVEN A RAT FIGHTS WHEN HE HAS HIS BACK TO THE WALL!
O-O-O-F
WHACK!
HAVEN'T HAD A PILLOW FIGHT IN AGES!
SUDDENLY SLUG BRACES HIS FEET AGAINST THE BED AND GIVES A TREACHEROUS SHOVE--
---AND WINS FAR MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN HE DARED HOPE!
ROBIN!
CR-A-S-H
AND NOW YOU'LL FOLLOW THE KID BATMAN! HUH---
THAT'S ONE FOR ROBIN!
TO BEHOLD A MIRACLE!
ROBIN - YOU'RE SAFE!
THIS IS MY BANNER DAY!
SICK WITH CERTAINTY OF WHAT HE WILL SEE, THE HEART-BROKEN BATMAN STRIDES MECHANICALLY TO THE WINDOW...
A MIRACLE IN FRONT OF HIM---BUT GRIM DOOM CLOSE BEHIND!


SWIFTLY THE BATMAN'S LIGHTNING BRAIN FORMULATES A DESPERATE PLAN..
HERE COMES THE LINE, ROBIN! CATCH!
RIGHTO!
ALL IN HAND BELOW, SIR!
GOOD BOY! NOW HANG ON!
A DEADLY HA- RIDDLES THE BATMAN'S SABLE WINGS AS HE LEAPS INTO SPACE!
BANG BANG BANG
BUT DOOM HOVERS TENACIOUSLY ABOVE HIM...
BWING AWAY BATMAN! I GOT LOTS OF BULLETS!
ALL RIGHT ROBIN- ALL SET?
I GET IT!
YOU WON'T HOLD STILL EH? WELL, I SUPPOSE I PICK OFF THE KID INSTEAD!
GO ON- YOU COWARD- HIT THE SIDE OF A BARN!
THE DEADLY MUZZLE TURNS TO ROBIN'S BARELY MOVING FIGURE... BUT BRAINY MISSES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT DESPERATE PINWHEEL--- UNTIL---
SORRY BUT THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF!
UGH!
AND SO WE REACH THE END OF THE SORDID RACKET TRAIL...
HELLO COMMISSIONER! WE HAVE THREE CUSTOMERS HERE WAITING FOR THE PATROL WAGON! AND THERE'S A LITTLE REWARD WE WANT TO DONATE TO---
TO THE RED CROSS! I HAVE IT ALL PRINTED!
TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS WE HEREBY DONATE OUR REWARD GUYS IN BRAINY BULOW PIG-MASTER IN THE DOUBLE-CROSS! THE BATMAN & ROBIN

BAT-PUZZLE

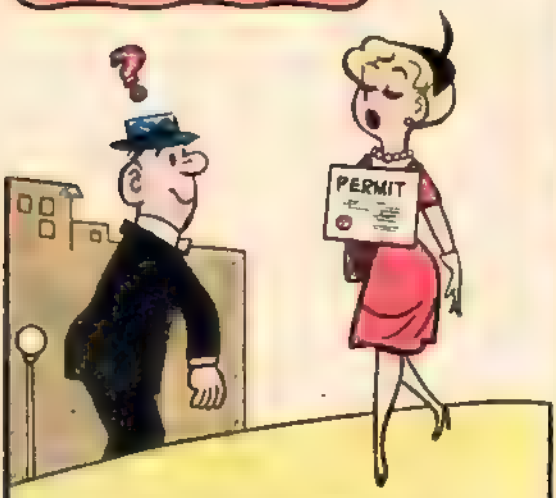
by Bob Rozakis

B R U C E W A Y N E V I T C E T E D
A L F R E D E N A K B O B H A N E Y
T E R O B I N G M M R F R E E Z E N
M C A C E C G O R D O N H E C K R A
A A N A Y K X O E T W O F A C E A M
N F K D T G B D P E N G U I N Y S I
D Y R A I R A W U B N A M O W T A C
I A O M L A T I S A E P A C S I L D
C L B S I Y G N E T I M T A B C G U
K C B A T S I G N A L Q L V A M H O
G A I B U O R L E R U J Q E B A U R
I R N O X N L A L A J O K E R H L A
O M S B R A V E A N D B O L D T C P
R I D D L E R N V G E N I L T O H A
D N L W O C J A S O N B A R D G I M
A E L L I O T Y V I N O S I O P L I
N F F O N I T L O B Y A R R U M L J
O W O R L D S F I N E S T A B N A M

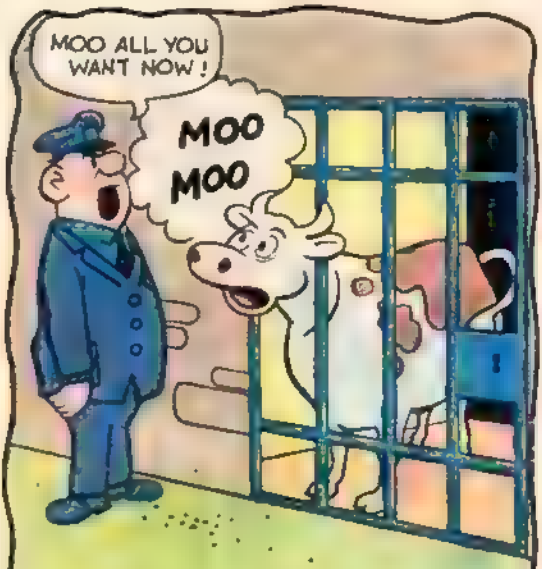
The names of the characters and equipment appearing in BATMAN are hidden in the puzzle above, along with the names of the writers, artists and editors who have brought you the adventures of the Dynamic Duo over the years. Can you find all the names listed below? Answer appears on page 89.

ACE (the Bat-Hound)
ALFRED
BABS (Gordon)
BATARANG
BATGIRL
BATMAN
BATMITE
BAT-SIGNAL
BOB HANEY
BOB KANE
BOB (Rozakis)
BRAVE AND BOLD
BRUCE WAYNE
CAPE
(Nick) CARDY
CARMINE (Infantino)
CATWOMAN
(Bat-) CAVE
(Joe) CHILL
CLAYFACE
COWL
DENNY (O'Neil)
DETECTIVE (Comics)
DICK GIORDANO
DICK GRAYSON
DON HECK
DYNAMIC DUO
ELLIOT (Maggin)
FRANK ROBBINS
(Archie) GOODWIN
(Commissioner) GORDON
GOTHAM CITY
HOTLINE
JASON BARD
JIM APARO
JLA
JOKER
JULIE (Schwartz)
MAN-BAT
MR. FREEZE
MURRAY BOLTINOFF
NEAL (Adams)
PENGUIN
POISON IVY
RAS AL GHUL
RIDDLER
ROBIN
SUPERMAN
TWO-FACE
UTILITY (Belt)
(Vicki) VALE
WORLD'S FINEST

STRANGE LAWS

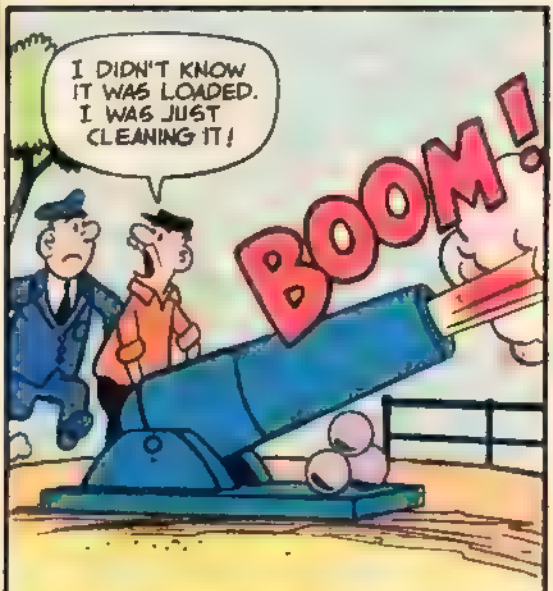


MOBILE, ALABAMA, PASSED AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING WOMEN FROM WEARING SHOES WITH HEELS MORE THAN 1½ INCHES HIGH. THOSE WHO WISH TO WEAR HIGHER HEELS MAY OBTAIN A SPECIAL PERMIT.



ANNOYED NEIGHBORS ARE EMPOWERED TO STOP A COW FROM MOOING ON AN ADJACENT FARM, ACCORDING TO THE CITY COURT IN EXETER, ENGLAND.

AN ARGENTINA ORDINANCE DEMANDS THAT DISK JOCKEYS PLAY AS MANY TANGO RECORDS AS ALL OTHER TYPES OF MUSIC COMBINED.



AN OLD NEW YORK CITY LAW SAYS YOU CANNOT FIRE A CANNON EXCEPT WITH THE MAYOR'S PERMISSION.

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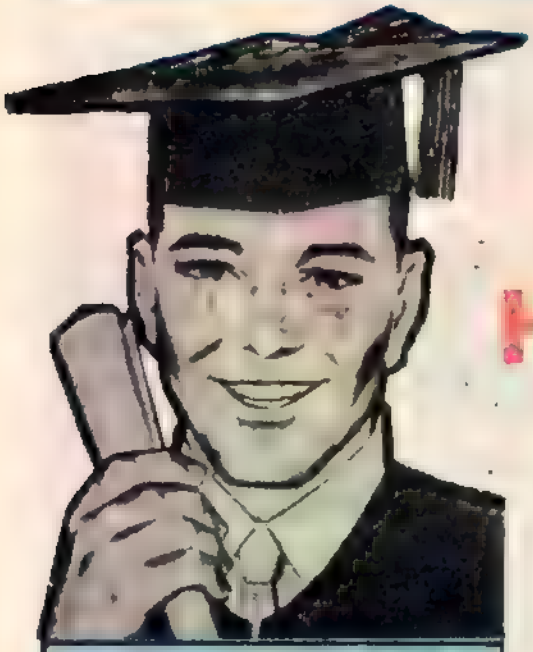

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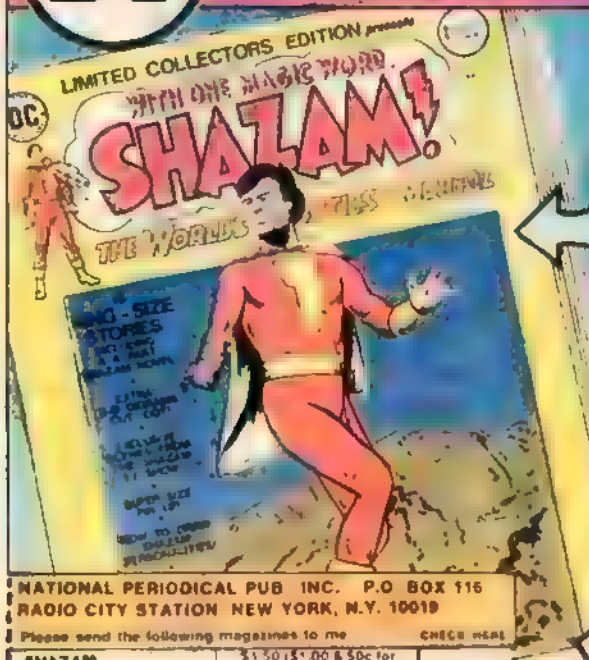

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I AM ONE OF *THE BATMAN'S* INVENTIONS... A SPY DEVICE CALLED THE *FLYING EYE!*

IN THIS TALE YOU'LL LEARN HOW I SPIED ON CRIMINALS... AND FOUND THEY HAD *STOLEN* ONE OF THE *CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER'S* WEAPONS!

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS OF THE DETECTIVE SKILL OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, BUT LESS WELL KNOWN IS THE SCIENTIFIC GENIUS OF THE DYNAMIC DUO! THAT'S BECAUSE THEY HAVE GUARDED THE SECRET OF THE MANY ASTONISHING INVENTIONS THEY HAVE DEVISED IN THEIR WAR AGAINST LAWBREAKERS! BUT NOW, TO THEIR DISMAY, THERE LOOMS OVER GOTHAM CITY A MYSTERIOUS **MENACE** THAT COMES FROM...

The 1,001 INVENTIONS of BATMAN

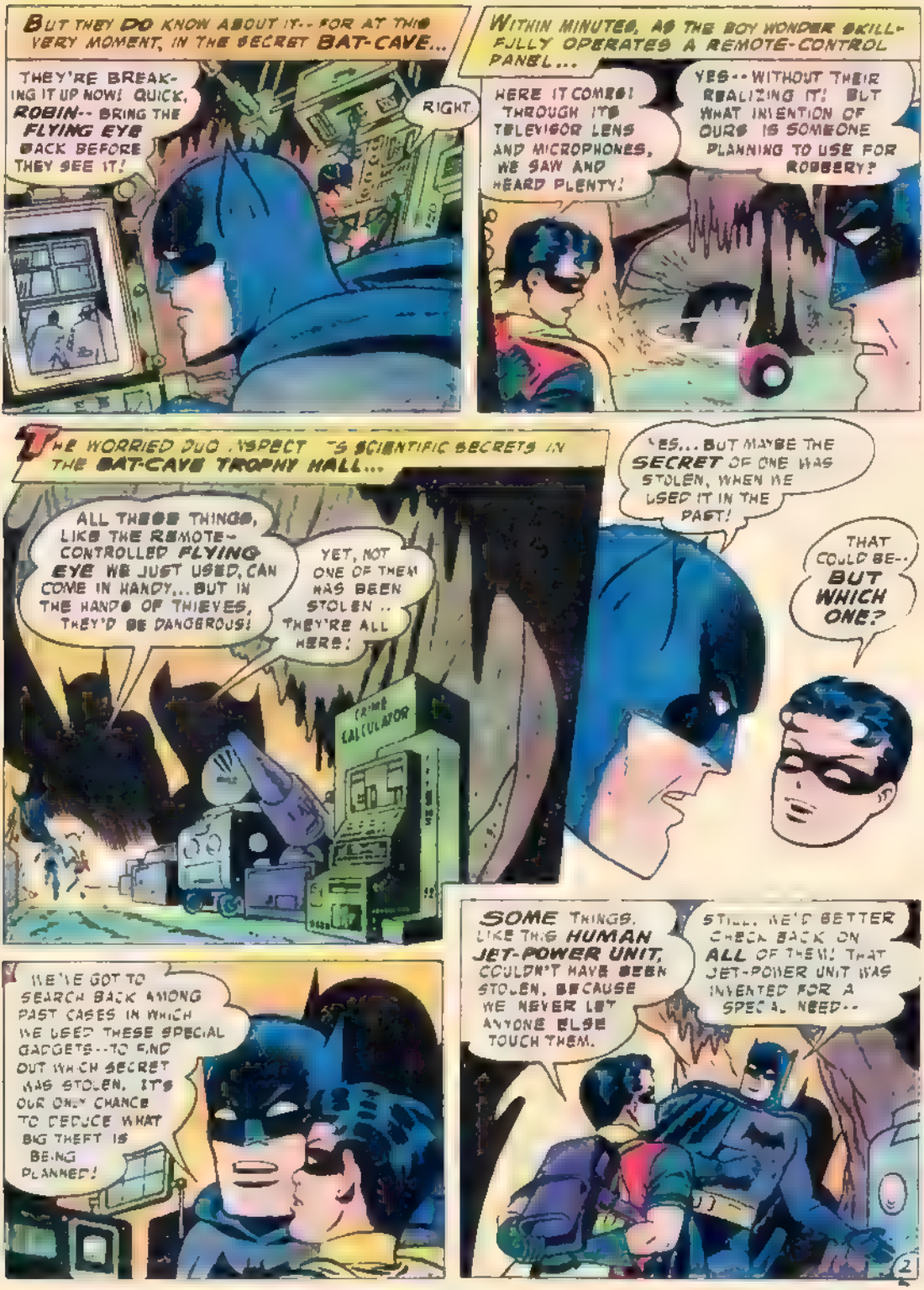
ART DICK SPRANG

OVER GOTHAM CITY, BY NIGHT, MOVES A SILENT, SELF-POWERED LITTLE MACHINE...

...THAT FINALLY HOVERS OUTSIDE AN OPEN, HIGH WINDOW--AS THOUGH WATCHING AND LISTENING!

YEAH... THE BOSS IS GONNA LEAD US IN A BIG ROBBERY, USING ONE OF *BATMAN'S OWN INVENTIONS!*

HA, HA, IF *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* ONLY KNEW ABOUT IT!


BUT THEY DO KNOW ABOUT IT-- FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN THE SECRET BAT-CAVE...
THEY'RE BREAKING IT UP NOW! QUICK, ROBIN-- BRING THE FLYING EYE BACK BEFORE THEY SEE IT!
RIGHT.
WITHIN MINUTES, AS THE BOY WONDER SKILLFULLY OPERATES A REMOTE-CONTROL PANEL...
HERE IT COMES! THROUGH ITS TELEVIGOR LENS AND MICROPHONES, WE SAW AND HEARD PLENTY!
YES--WITHOUT THEIR REALIZING IT! BUT WHAT INVENTION OF OURS IS SOMEONE PLANNING TO USE FOR ROBBERY?
THE WORRIED DUO INSPECT THIS SCIENTIFIC SECRETS IN THE BAT-CAVE TROPHY HALL...
ALL THESE THINGS, LIKE THE REMOTE-CONTROLLED FLYING EYE WE JUST USED, CAN COME IN HANDY... BUT IN THE HANDS OF THIEVES, THEY'D BE DANGEROUS!
YET, NOT ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN STOLEN .. THEY'RE ALL HERE!
CRIME CALCULATOR
YES... BUT MAYBE THE SECRET OF ONE WAS STOLEN, WHEN WE USED IT IN THE PAST!
THAT COULD BE-- BUT WHICH ONE?
WE'VE GOT TO SEARCH BACK AMONG PAST CASES IN WHICH WE USED THESE SPECIAL GADGETS--TO FIND OUT WHICH SECRET WAS STOLEN. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO DEDUCE WHAT BIG THEFT IS BEING PLANNED!
SOME THINGS, LIKE THIS HUMAN JET-POWER UNIT, COULDN'T HAVE BEEN STOLEN, BECAUSE WE NEVER LET ANYONE ELSE TOUCH THEM.
STILL, WE'D BETTER CHECK BACK ON ALL OF THEM! THAT JET-POWER UNIT WAS INVENTED FOR A SPECIAL NEED--
2

1,001 INVENTIONS OF BATMAN

"...TO COPE WITH THIEVES WE'D BEEN TRYING TO CATCH FOR WEEKS...
THERE THEY COME - FROM THAT ALLEY BEHIND A JEWEL-FIRM. NAIL THEM FAST!
THIS TIME WE'LL GET THEM WITH THE GOODS!
"BUT, AS BEFORE, WE WERE BAFFLED BY LACK OF PROOF.
YES, SEVERAL VALUABLE JEWELS WERE STOLEN--BUT THESE MEN DON'T HAVE THEM.
YOU'VE GOT NO CASE, BATMAN, AND YOU KNOW IT.
"BACK IN THE BAT-CAVE, WE FACED A TOUGH PROBLEM.
IT SURE SOUNDS LIKE THE ANSWER--BUT HOW WILL WE CATCH PIGEONS? THE BAT-PLANE CAN'T FLY AMONG THE WIRES AND SIGNS OF A CITY STREET!
WHICH MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO FIND SOME MEANS OF FLYING SHORT DISTANCES OUR-SELVES! LET'S GET TO WORK!
HOW DO THEY GET RID OF THEIR LOOT SO FAST? THERE'S NEVER ANYONE ELSE AROUND, AND...
WAIT, ROBIN... WHAT ABOUT THOSE PIGEONS WE ALWAYS SEE TAKING OFF FROM THE PLACES THEY ROB? COULD THEY BE TYING EACH JEWEL TO A PIGEON AND RELEASING THE BIRD TO GO HOME?
"BEFORE LONG, OUR NEW INVENTION WAS READY...
WOW! IT'S GOT PLENTY OF POWER!
IT'LL NEED IT--TO LIFT EACH OF US ON THE FOLDING WINGS WE MADE! FROM NOW ON, WE'LL WEAR THEM WHENEVER WE GO ON PATROL!
"AND, ONLY HOURS LATER..."
LISTEN, A BURGLAR-ALARM... AND THERE GO PIGEONS!
AFTER THEM! WE MUST CATCH THEM FAST!
CLANG CLANG
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
3

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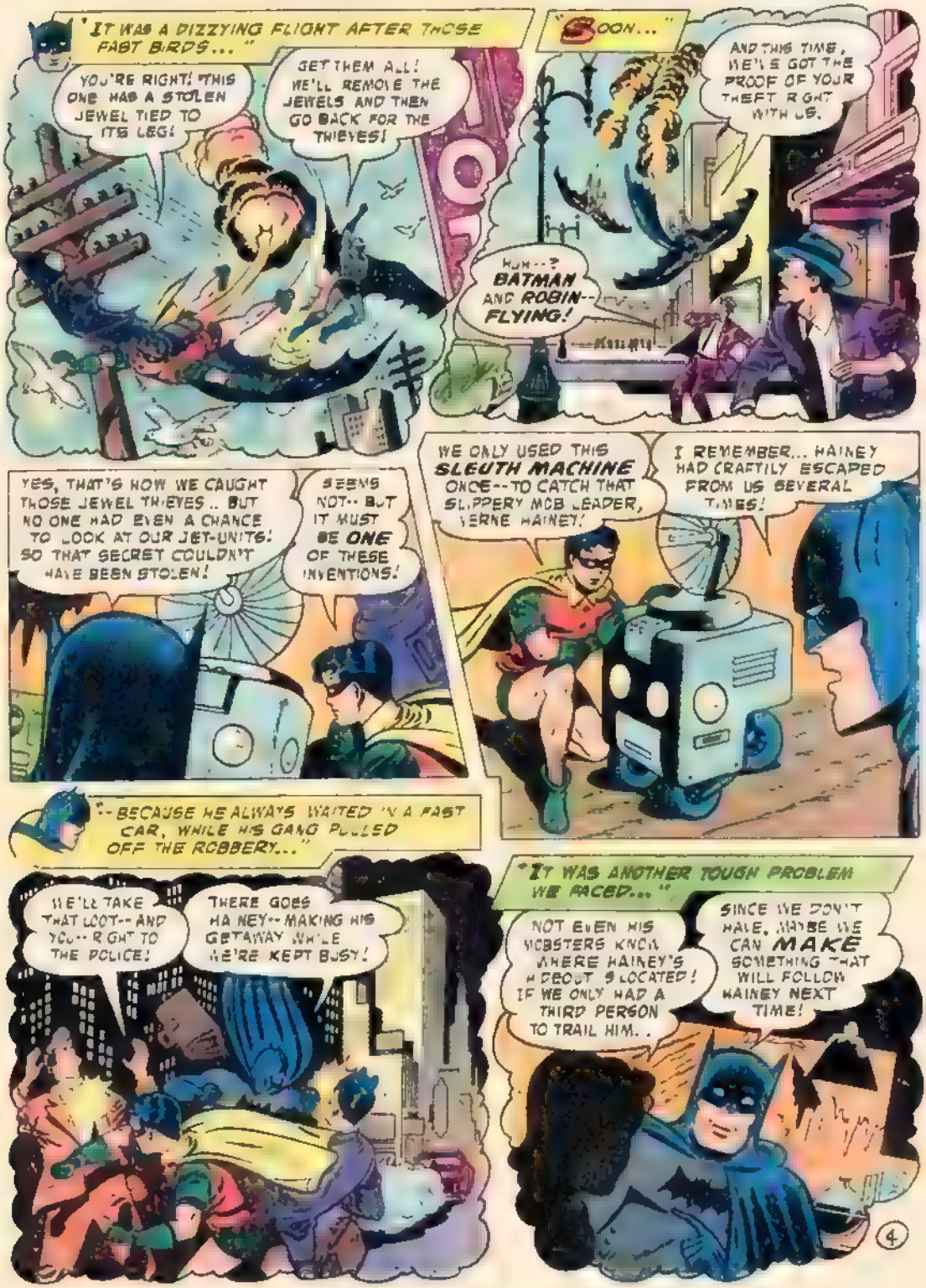
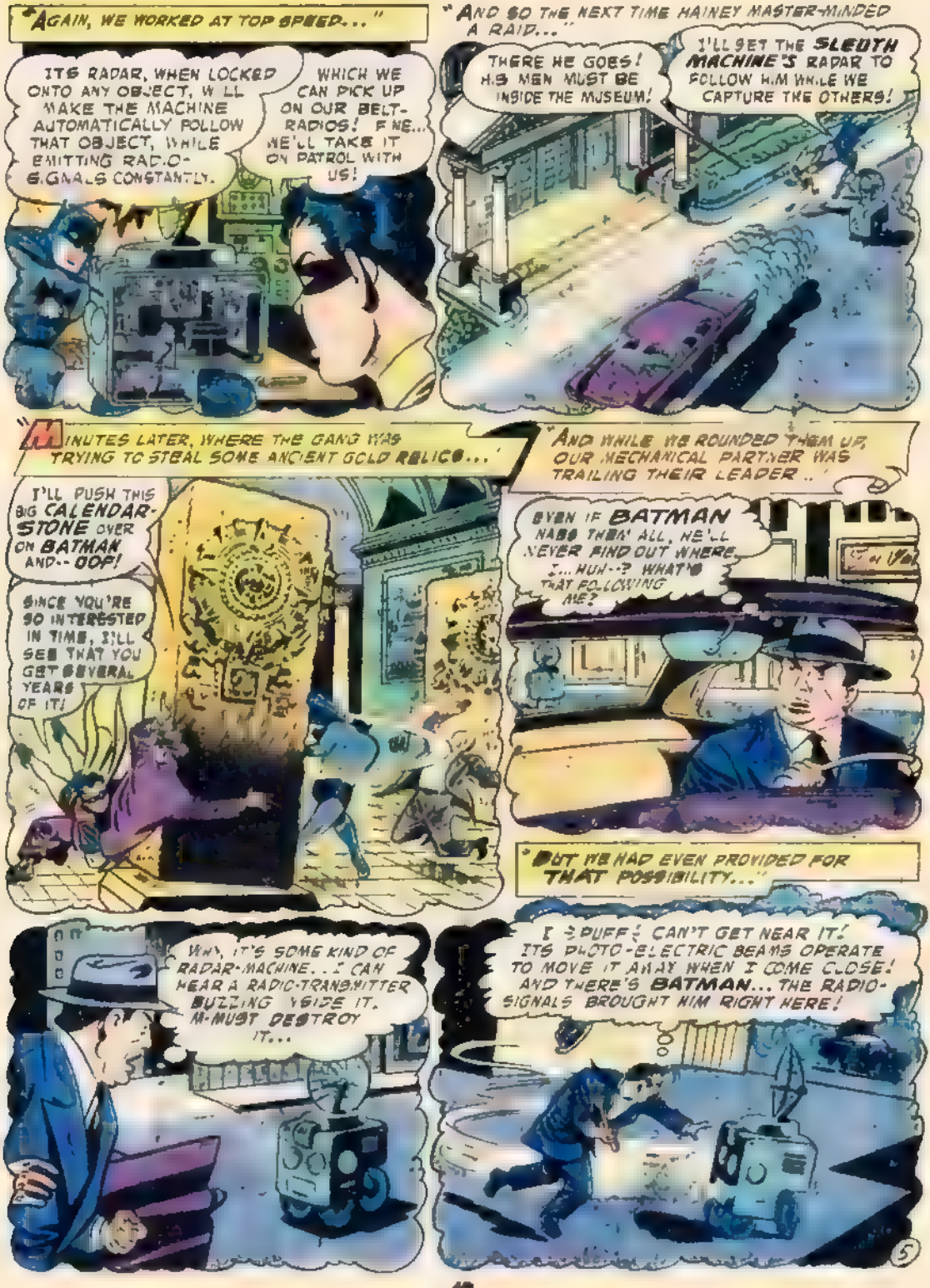
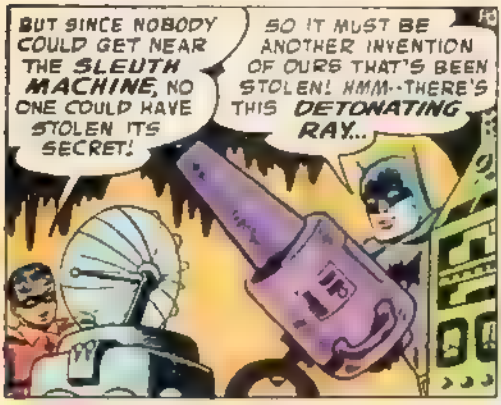
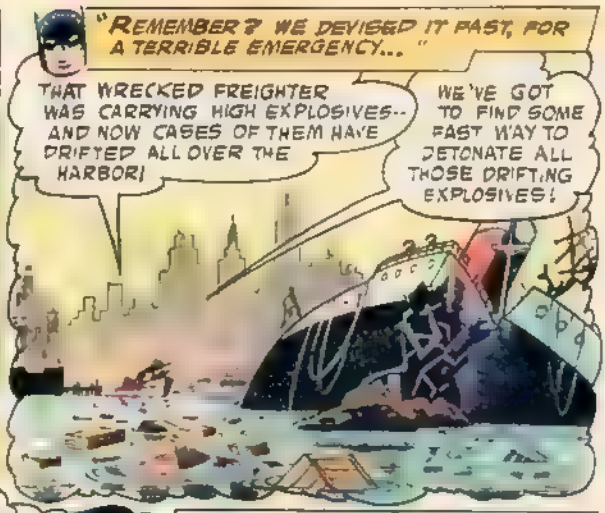
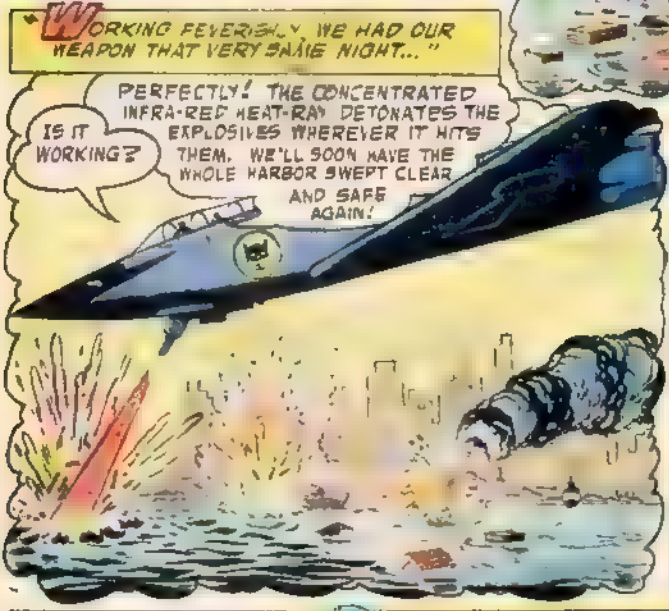
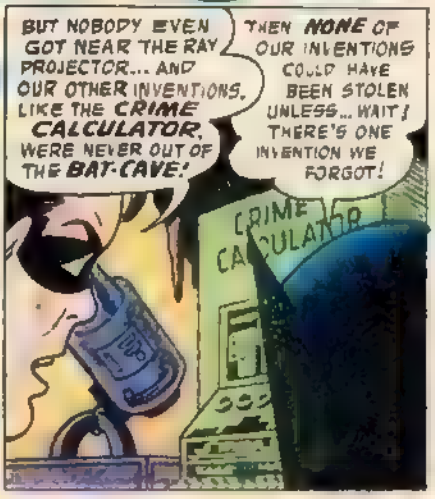

"IT WAS A DIZZYING FLIGHT AFTER THOSE FAST BIRDS..."
YOU'RE RIGHT! THIS ONE HAS A STOLEN JEWEL TIED TO ITS LEG!
GET THEM ALL! WE'LL REMOVE THE JEWELS AND THEN GO BACK FOR THE THIEVES!
"SOON..."
AND THIS TIME, WE'LL GOT THE PROOF OF YOUR THEFT RIGHT WITH US.
HUH--? BATMAN AND ROBIN--FLYING!
YES, THAT'S HOW WE CAUGHT THOSE JEWEL THIEVES.. BUT NO ONE HAD EVEN A CHANCE TO LOOK AT OUR JET-UNITS! SO THAT SECRET COULDN'T HAVE BEEN STOLEN!
SEEMS NOT-- BUT IT MUST BE ONE OF THESE INVENTIONS!
WE ONLY USED THIS SLEUTH MACHINE ONCE--TO CATCH THAT SLIPPERY MOB LEADER, VERNE HAINEY!
I REMEMBER... HAINEY HAD CRAFTILY ESCAPED FROM US SEVERAL TIMES!
"--BECAUSE HE ALWAYS WAITED IN A FAST CAR, WHILE HIS GANG PULLED OFF THE ROBBERY..."
WE'LL TAKE THAT LOOT-- AND YOU-- RIGHT TO THE POLICE!
THERE GOES HA NEY--MAKING HIS GETAWAY WHILE WE'RE KEPT BUSY!
"IT WAS ANOTHER TOUGH PROBLEM WE FACED..."
NOT EVEN HIS MOBSTERS KNOW WHERE HAINEY'S ABOUT 9 LOCATED! IF WE ONLY HAD A THIRD PERSON TO TRAIL HIM..
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE, MAYBE WE CAN MAKE SOMETHING THAT WILL FOLLOW HAINEY NEXT TIME!
4


"AGAIN, WE WORKED AT TOP SPEED..."
ITS RADAR, WHEN LOCKED ONTO ANY OBJECT, WILL MAKE THE MACHINE AUTOMATICALLY FOLLOW THAT OBJECT, WHILE EMITTING RADIO-SIGNALS CONSTANTLY.
WHICH WE CAN PICK UP ON OUR BELT-RADIOS! THEN... WE'LL TAKE IT ON PATROL WITH US!
"AND SO THE NEXT TIME HAINEY MASTER-MINDED A RAID..."
THERE HE GOES! HIS MEN MUST BE INSIDE THE MUSEUM!
I'LL SET THE SLEUTH MACHINE'S RADAR TO FOLLOW HIM WHILE WE CAPTURE THE OTHERS!
"MINUTES LATER, WHERE THE GANG WAS TRYING TO STEAL SOME ANCIENT GOLD RELICS..."
I'LL PUSH THIS BIG CALENDAR-STONE OVER ON BATMAN AND--OOF!
SINCE YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN TIME, I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET SEVERAL YEARS OF IT!
"AND WHILE WE ROUNDED THEM UP, OUR MECHANICAL PARTNER WAS TRAILING THEIR LEADER..."
EVEN IF BATMAN HADS THEM ALL, HE'LL NEVER FIND OUT WHERE I... HUH--? WHAT'S THAT FOLLOWING ME?
"BUT WE HAD EVEN PROVIDED FOR THAT POSSIBILITY..."
WHY, IT'S SOME KIND OF RADAR-MACHINE... I CAN HEAR A RADIO-TRANSMITTER BUZZING INSIDE IT. M-MUST DESTROY IT...
I --PUFF-- CAN'T GET NEAR IT! ITS PHOTO-ELECTRIC BEAMS OPERATE TO MOVE IT AWAY WHEN I COME CLOSE! AND THERE'S BATMAN... THE RADIO-SIGNALS BROUGHT HIM RIGHT HERE!
5

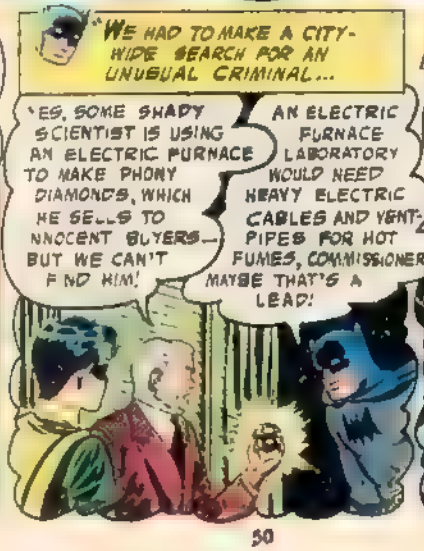

BUT SINCE NOBODY COULD GET NEAR THE SLEUTH MACHINE, NO ONE COULD HAVE STOLEN ITS SECRET!
SO IT MUST BE ANOTHER INVENTION OF OURS THAT'S BEEN STOLEN! HMM--THERE'S THIS DETONATING RAY...

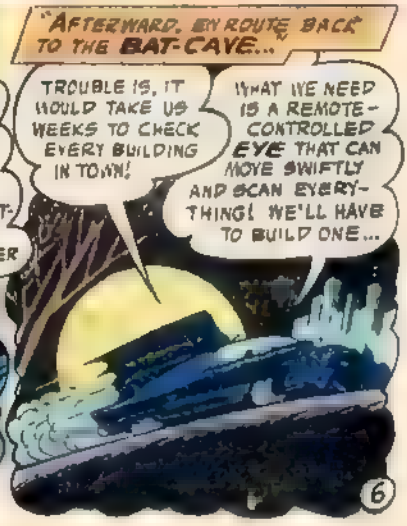

"REMEMBER? WE DEVISED IT PAST, FOR A TERRIBLE EMERGENCY..."
THAT WRECKED FREIGHTER WAS CARRYING HIGH EXPLOSIVES--AND NOW CASES OF THEM HAVE DRIFTED ALL OVER THE HARBOR!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND SOME FAST WAY TO DETONATE ALL THOSE DRIFTING EXPLOSIVES!


"WORKING FEVERISHLY, WE HAD OUR WEAPON THAT VERY SAME NIGHT..."
IS IT WORKING?
PERFECTLY! THE CONCENTRATED INFRA-RED HEAT-RAY DETONATES THE EXPLOSIVES WHEREVER IT HITS THEM. WE'LL SOON HAVE THE WHOLE HARBOR SWEPT CLEAR AND SAFE AGAIN!

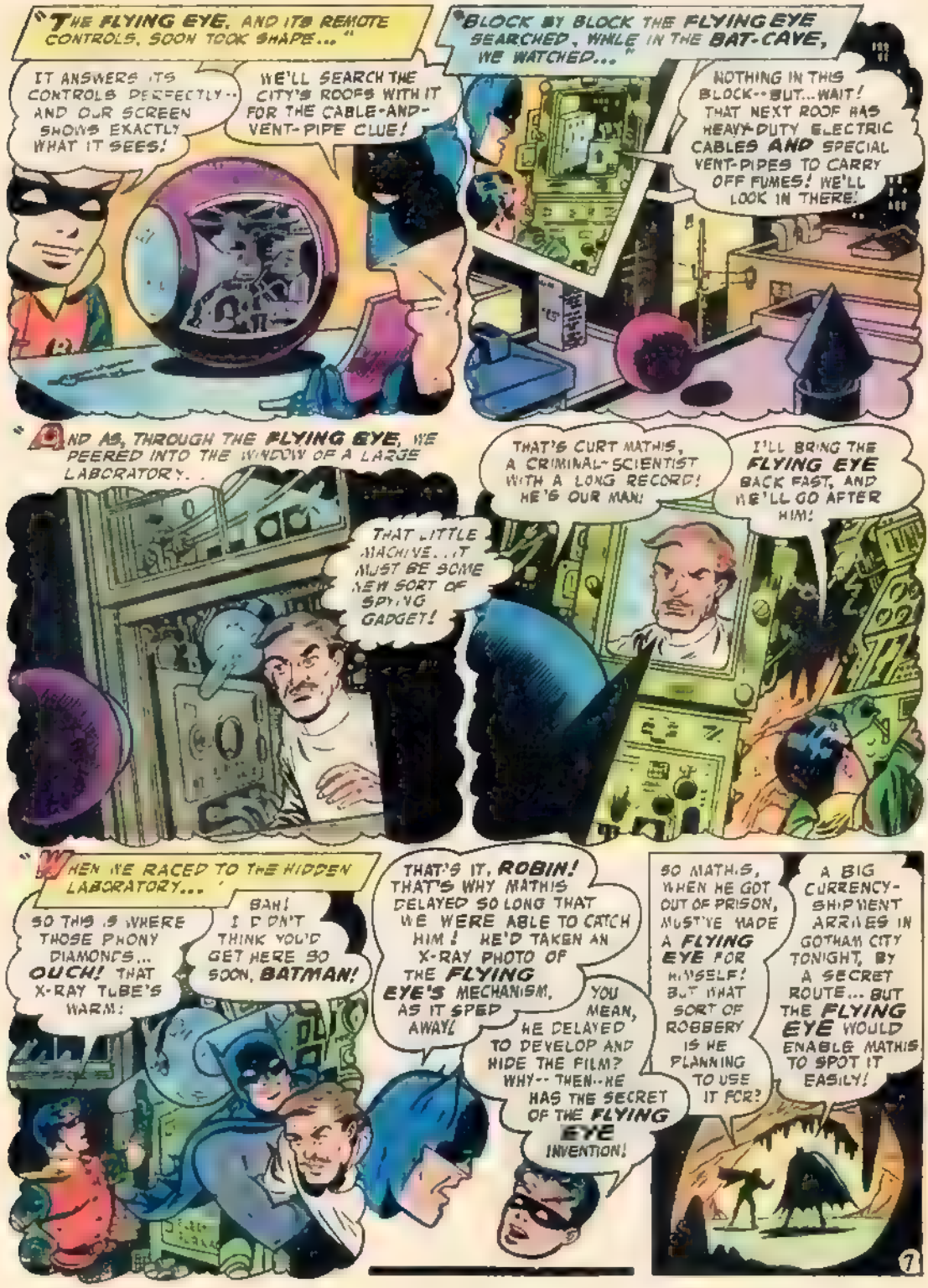

BUT NOBODY EVEN GOT NEAR THE RAY PROJECTOR... AND OUR OTHER INVENTIONS, LIKE THE CRIME CALCULATOR, WERE NEVER OUT OF THE BAT-CAVE!
THEN NONE OF OUR INVENTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN STOLEN UNLESS... WAIT! THERE'S ONE INVENTION WE FORGOT!
CRIME CALCULATOR

OF COURSE--THE FLYING EYE! I FORGOT IT, BECAUSE IT WASN'T WITH THE OTHERS!
LET'S CHECK BACK ON THE TIME WE INVENTED AND USED IT...


"WE HAD TO MAKE A CITY-WIDE SEARCH FOR AN UNUSUAL CRIMINAL...
YES, SOME SHADY SCIENTIST IS USING AN ELECTRIC FURNACE TO MAKE PHONY DIAMONDS, WHICH HE SELLS TO INNOCENT BUYERS--BUT WE CAN'T FIND HIM!
AN ELECTRIC FURNACE LABORATORY WOULD NEED HEAVY ELECTRIC CABLES AND VENT-PIPES FOR HOT FUMES, COMMISSIONER MAYBE THAT'S A LEAD!


"AFTERWARD, EN ROUTE BACK TO THE BAT-CAVE..."
TROUBLE IS, IT WOULD TAKE US WEEKS TO CHECK EVERY BUILDING IN TOWN!
WHAT WE NEED IS A REMOTE-CONTROLLED EYE THAT CAN MOVE SWIFTLY AND SCAN EVERYTHING! WE'LL HAVE TO BUILD ONE...
6

1,001 INVENTIONS OF BATMAN


"THE FLYING EYE, AND ITS REMOTE CONTROLS, SOON TOOK SHAPE..."
IT ANSWERS ITS CONTROLS PERFECTLY-- AND OUR SCREEN SHOWS EXACTLY WHAT IT SEES!
WE'LL SEARCH THE CITY'S ROOFS WITH IT FOR THE CABLE-AND-VENT-PIPE CLUE!
"BLOCK BY BLOCK THE FLYING EYE SEARCHED, WHILE IN THE BAT-CAVE, WE WATCHED..."
NOTHING IN THIS BLOCK--BUT...WAIT! THAT NEXT ROOF HAS HEAVY-DUTY ELECTRIC CABLES AND SPECIAL VENT-PIPES TO CARRY OFF FUMES! WE'LL LOOK IN THERE!
"AND AS, THROUGH THE FLYING EYE, WE PEERED INTO THE WINDOW OF A LARGE LABORATORY..."
THAT LITTLE MACHINE...IT MUST BE SOME NEW SORT OF SPYING GADGET!
THAT'S CURT MATHIS, A CRIMINAL-SCIENTIST WITH A LONG RECORD! HE'S OUR MAN!
I'LL BRING THE FLYING EYE BACK FAST, AND WE'LL GO AFTER HIM!
"WHEN WE RACED TO THE HIDDEN LABORATORY..."
SO THIS IS WHERE THOSE PHONY DIAMONDS... OUCH! THAT X-RAY TUBE'S WARM!
BAH! I DON'T THINK YOU'D GET HERE SO SOON, BATMAN!
THAT'S IT, ROBIN! THAT'S WHY MATHIS DELAYED SO LONG THAT WE WERE ABLE TO CATCH HIM! HE'D TAKEN AN X-RAY PHOTO OF THE FLYING EYE'S MECHANISM, AS IT SPED AWAY!
YOU MEAN, HE DELAYED TO DEVELOP AND HIDE THE FILM? WHY--THEN--HE HAS THE SECRET OF THE FLYING EYE INVENTION!
SO MATHIS, WHEN HE GOT OUT OF PRISON, MUST'VE MADE A FLYING EYE FOR HIMSELF! BUT WHAT SORT OF ROBBERY IS HE PLANNING TO USE IT FOR?
A BIG CURRENCY-SHIPMENT ARRIVES IN GOTHAM CITY TONIGHT, BY A SECRET ROUTE... BUT THE FLYING EYE WOULD ENABLE MATHIS TO SPOT IT EASILY!
7

INDEED, THAT VERY SAME NIGHT,..
SEE?... MY FLYING EYE HAS LOCATED THE TRUCK! YOU CAN AMBUSH IT EASILY!
AS SOON AS WE SEE JUST WHICH WAY IT'S COMING, WE'LL START!
BUT OTHER EYES ARE ON THE GOLD-LADEN TRUCK, TOO..
THERE'S THE CROOKS' FLYING EYE! SINCE WE'RE ABOVE IT, WE CAN'T BE SEEN!
NOW'S THE TIME TO CARRY OUT OUR PLAN... BUT REMEMBER, DON'T GET IN FRONT OF ITS LENS--OR MATHIS WILL SEE US!
USING THEIR HUMAN JET-POWER UNITS, THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTERS ATTACK THEIR OWN STOLEN CREATION...
MUST TEAR LOOSE THE CAMERA WIRES... THERE--THAT DOES IT!
HUH--? YOUR FLYING EYE WENT DARK, ALL OF A SUDDEN!
SOME MINOR FAILURE OF THE TELEVISION CAMERA! I'LL BRING THE EYE BACK AT ONCE AND REPAIR IT SO WE CAN KEEP TRAILING THAT TRUCK!
BUT AWHILE LATER, AS THE SCIENTIST MAKES REPAIRS..
ITS WIRING WAS TORN LOOSE. THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD DO THAT ARE
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
YES--ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS FOLLOW THE FLYING EYE BACK HERE, MATHIS.
8
AND SO, AFTER JAILING THE CRIMINALS...
MR. MATHIS' COPY OF THE EYE, AND THE X-RAY FILM WE TOOK OF IT, THE SECRET IS SAFE AGAIN.
I ONLY WISH WE COULD INVENT A WAY TO MAKE SUCH THIEVES REALIZE THEY CAN'T WIN! THAT WOULD BE A REAL INVENTION!
THE END

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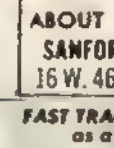

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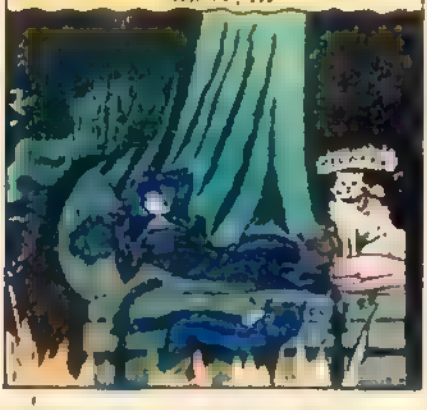
ALFRED PENNYWORTH HERE! AS BRUCE WAYNE'S BUTLER, I KNOW ALL ABOUT HIS PRIVATE LIFE! I AM NOT GENERALLY ONE TO TELL WHAT I SEE AND HEAR. BUT IF YOU'LL PROMISE TO KEEP IT ALL SECRET, I'LL REVEAL THE FACTS ABOUT...

THE WOMEN

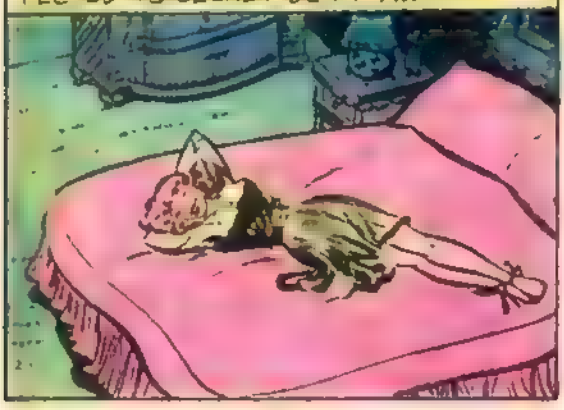
"JULIE MADISON WAS MASTER BRUCE'S FIANCEE FOR A WHILE. BEFORE MY TIME, THOUGH..."

"WHEN I ENTERED MR WAYNE'S SERVICE, HE WAS GOING WITH LINDA PAGE, A SOCIETY GIRL WHO CHUCKED THE SOCIAL WHIRL TO BECOME A NURSE. THAT IS SHE IN THE CHAIR... BUT UNKNOWN TO HER, THE BEAUTIFUL AN IS REALLY..."

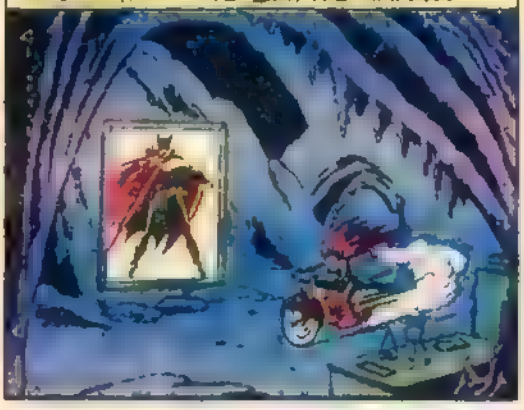
"...SELINA KYLE, BETTER KNOWN AS THE CATWOMAN... A CRIMINAL WHO HAS EYES FOR THE BATMAN!..."



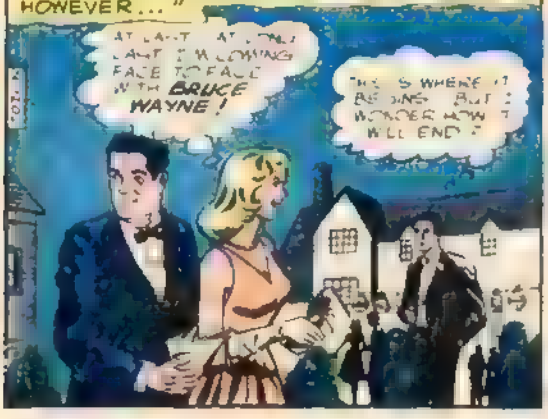
"THE NEAREST MASTER BRUCE CAME TO HAVING HIS OWN 'LOIS LANE' WAS VICKI VALE, NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER, WHO SUSPECTED HIS SECRET IDENTITY..."



"AND LET US NOT FORGET KATHY KANE, WHO FOR SEVERAL YEARS PURSUED A CRIME-FIGHTING CAREER. AND THE MASTER.. AS THE BATWOMAN..."

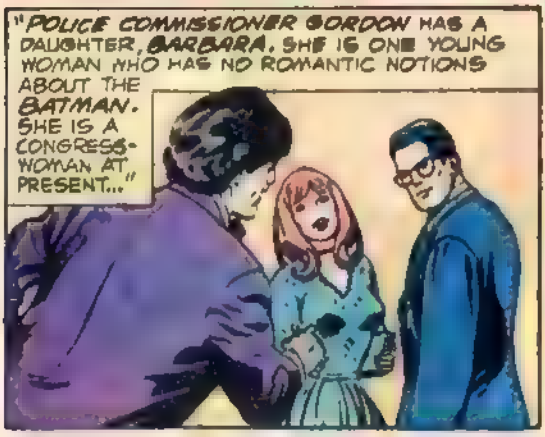


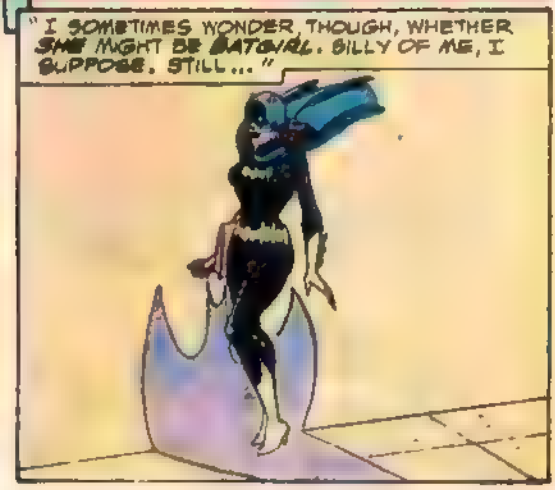
"PATRICIA POWELL, A POLICEWOMAN, HAD A CRUSH ON MR. WAYNE. NOTHING CAME OF IT, HOWEVER..."

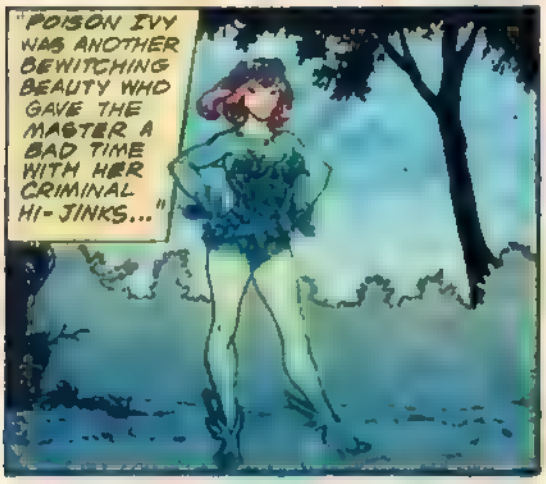


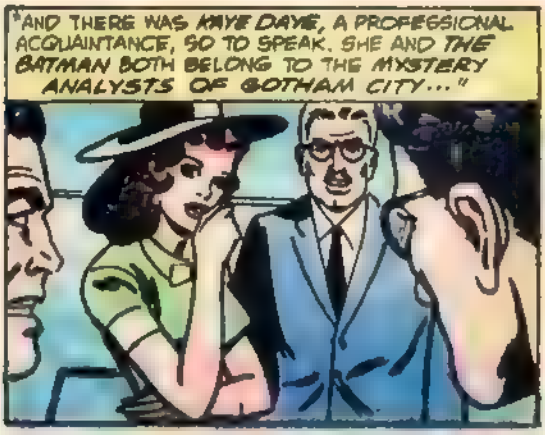
"WHEN VIRGINIA JENKINS WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, THE PROPHECY SHOWN HERE WAS MADE IN THE YEARBOOK. HAPPILY, IT WAS NOT FULFILLED.."

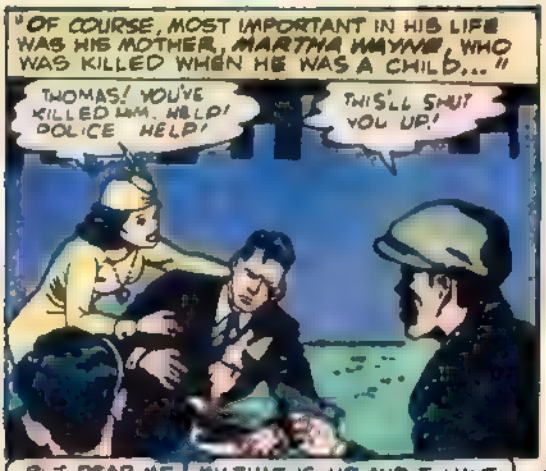
IN THE BATMAN'S LIFE

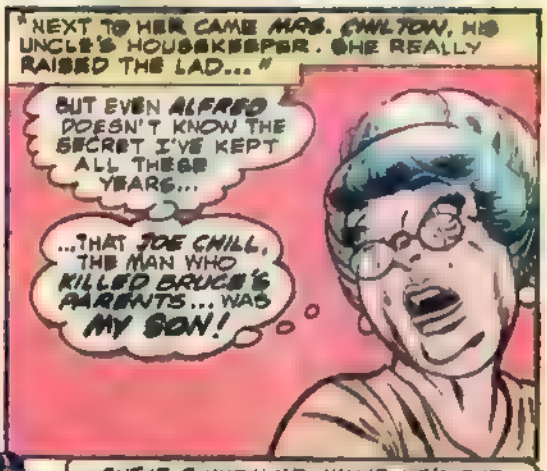

"POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS A DAUGHTER, BARBARA. SHE IS ONE YOUNG WOMAN WHO HAS NO ROMANTIC NOTIONS ABOUT THE BATMAN. SHE IS A CONGRESS-WOMAN AT PRESENT..."






"AND THERE WAS KAYE DAYE, A PROFESSIONAL ACQUAINTANCE, SO TO SPEAK. SHE AND THE BATMAN BOTH BELONG TO THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY..."


"OF COURSE, MOST IMPORTANT IN HIS LIFE WAS HIS MOTHER, MARTHA WAYNE, WHO WAS KILLED WHEN HE WAS A CHILD..."
THOMAS! YOU'VE KILLED HIM. HELP! POLICE HELP!
THIS'LL SHUT YOU UP!


"NEXT TO HER CAME MRS. CHILTON, HIS UNCLE'S HOUSEKEEPER. SHE REALLY RAISED THE LAD..."
BUT EVEN ALFRED DOESN'T KNOW THE SECRET I'VE KEPT ALL THESE YEARS...
...THAT JOE CHILL, THE MAN WHO KILLED BRUCE'S PARENTS... WAS MY SON!

BUT, DEAR ME! MY TIME IS UP AND I HAVE YET TO MENTION AUNT HARRIET AND TALIA AND SO MANY OTHERS...
...BUT IF I KNOW MR. WAYNE, HE'S OUT WITH A NEW FEMALE ACQUAINTANCE RIGHT NOW! THAT PLAYBOY LIFE ISN'T ALL JUST PRETENSE!

YOU ALL KNOW ME... SANTA CLAUS, THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS! AND THAT SPIRIT IS ALSO ONE OF THE BATMAN'S WEAPONS...
...BECAUSE WHILE OTHER WEAPONS CAN CONQUER WRONG-DOERS, ONLY THE IDEALS OF PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL TO MEN CAN CHANGE THEM SO THEY'LL DO GOOD!
BATMAN AND ROBIN
By BOB KANE
ANY RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN THIS ADVENTURE AND DICKEN'S BELOVED MASTERPIECE, "A CHRISTMAS CAROL", IS STRICTLY INTENTIONAL... FOR THE GREAT ENGLISH NOVELIST WROTE OF THE SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD THAT STIRS ANEW IN THE WORLD WHEN THE MYSTICAL STAR OF THE WISE MEN SHINES AT YULETIDE--AND THAT IS THE GUIDING BEACON OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN AND ROBIN AS THEY FARE FORTH ONCE MORE AGAINST EVIL AND INJUSTICE, TO TELL AN OLD STORY IN A STARTLING NEW WAY--
"A Christmas Peril!"
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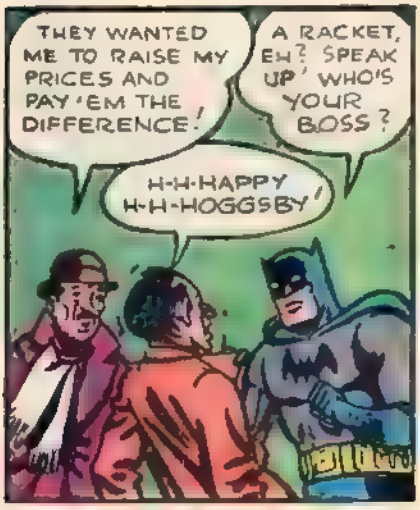
ART BY: JERRY ROBINSON

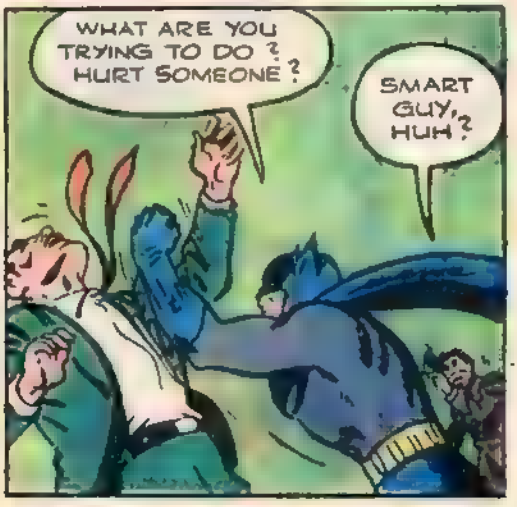
A CHRISTMAS PERIL

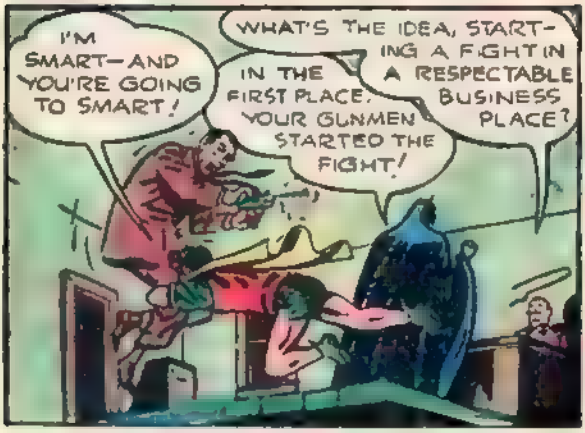
CHRISTMAS EVE IN GOTHAM CITY—AND BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ARE DOING THE LAST OF THEIR SHOPPING...
SEVENTY EIGHT FOR THOSE ? / JUMEJ
THEY ARENT WORTH A DOLLAR!
TAKE 'EM OR LEAVE 'EM! THERE'S A SHORTAGE THIS YEAR!
198 EACH
WE SHOULD HAVE COME HERE FIRST BRUCE!
A FINE TIME TO SUGGEST IT!
I GOT A RIGHT TO SELL MY TREES AT ANY PRICE I WANT
2.00
SAYS YOU!
WHA--? HELP!
HERE'S WHERE YER PROFITS GO UP IN SMOKE!
THOSE HOODLUMS SEEM TO BE LACKING IN PEACE AND GOOD WILL!
WE'LL TEACH THEM THE PROPER SPIRIT!
I SEE YOU RATS DON'T BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS!
HUH? BATMAN!
AN ROBIN!
OUCH! I'M AFIRE!
YOU CALLED IT RIGHT THAT TIME, CHUMP!


THEY WANTED ME TO RAISE MY PRICES AND PAY 'EM THE DIFFERENCE!
A RACKET, EH? SPEAK UP! WHO'S YOUR BOSS?
H-H-HAPPY H-H-HOGGSBY!

HAPPY HOGGSBY, GANG CHIEFTAIN, HAS FOUND THIS YULETIDE A MERRY ONE, INDEED...
HAW, HAW! SANTA CLAUS IS SURE PAYIN OFF THIS YEAR!
WHY DIDN'T WE EVER THINK O' DIS BEFOR= DA WHOLE WOILD'S CRAZY ABOUT CHRISSMUS TREES!
EVEN AT FOUR TIMES DA REGULAR PRICE! HA, HA HA!

UNTIL NOW!
HAPPY HOGGSBY, I BELIEVE?
BATMAN!
I'LL FIX 'EM!


WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? HURT SOMEONE?
SMART GUY, HUH?


I'M SMART—AND YOU'RE GOING TO SMART!
WHAT'S THE IDEA, STARTING A FIGHT IN A RESPECTABLE BUSINESS PLACE?
IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOUR GUNMEN STARTED THE FIGHT!

AND IN THE SECOND PLACE, HOGGING THE CHRISTMAS TREE MARKET THROUGH TERRORISM ISN'T RESPECTABLE!
ALL I DO IS MANAGE THE BUSINESS! IF MY—ER—AGENTS USE CRUDE METHODS, CAN I HELP IT?
3

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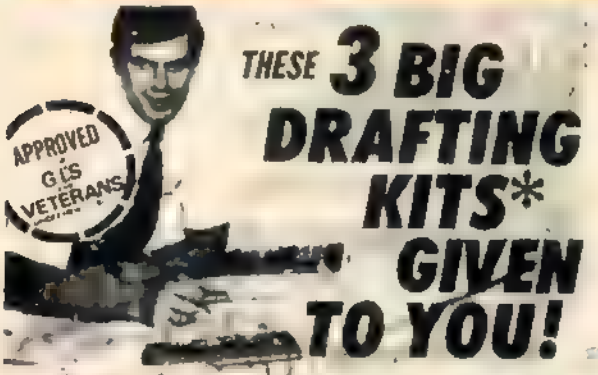

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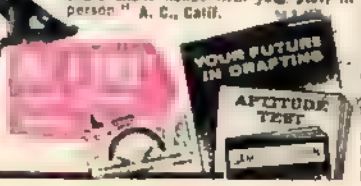

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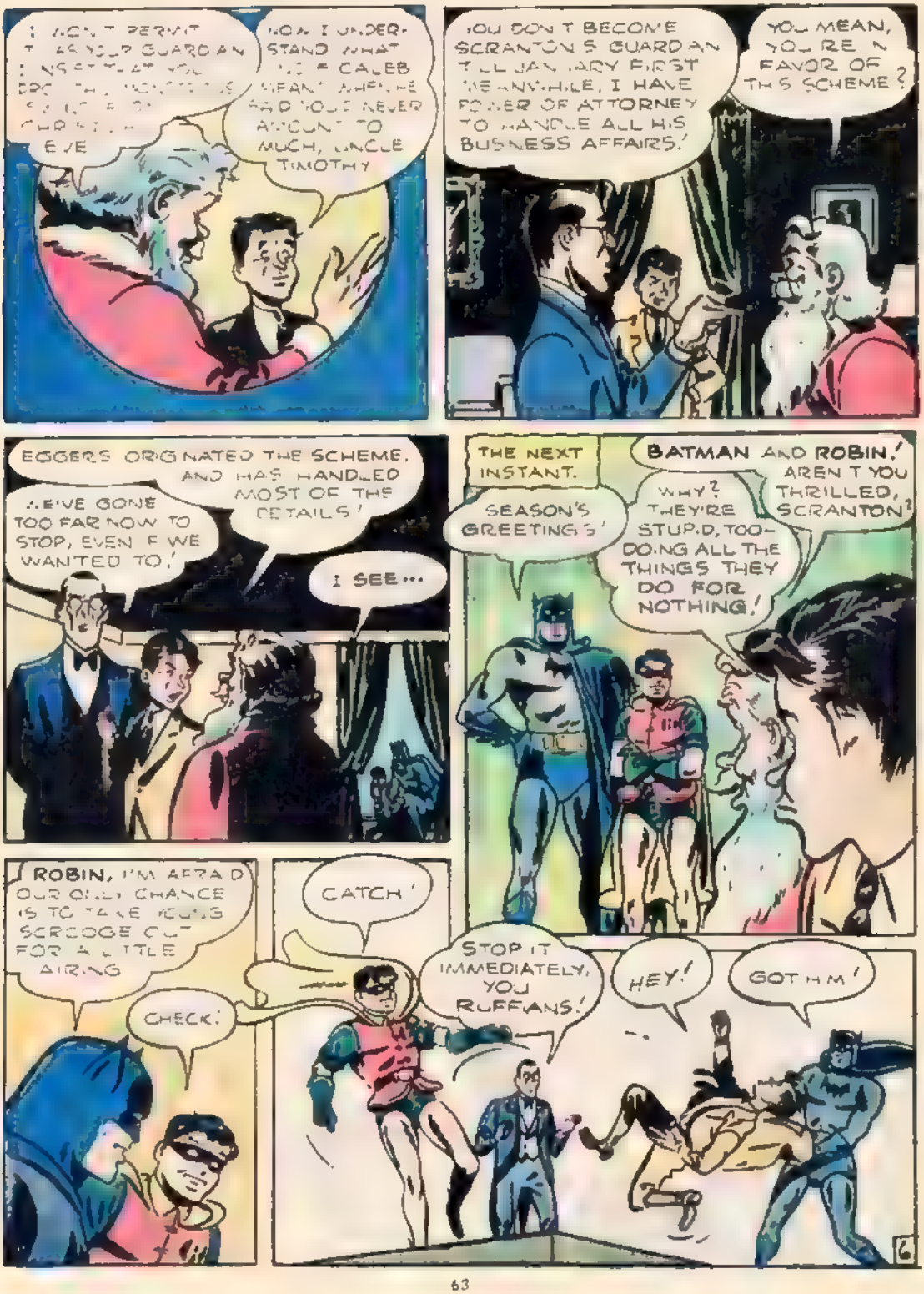
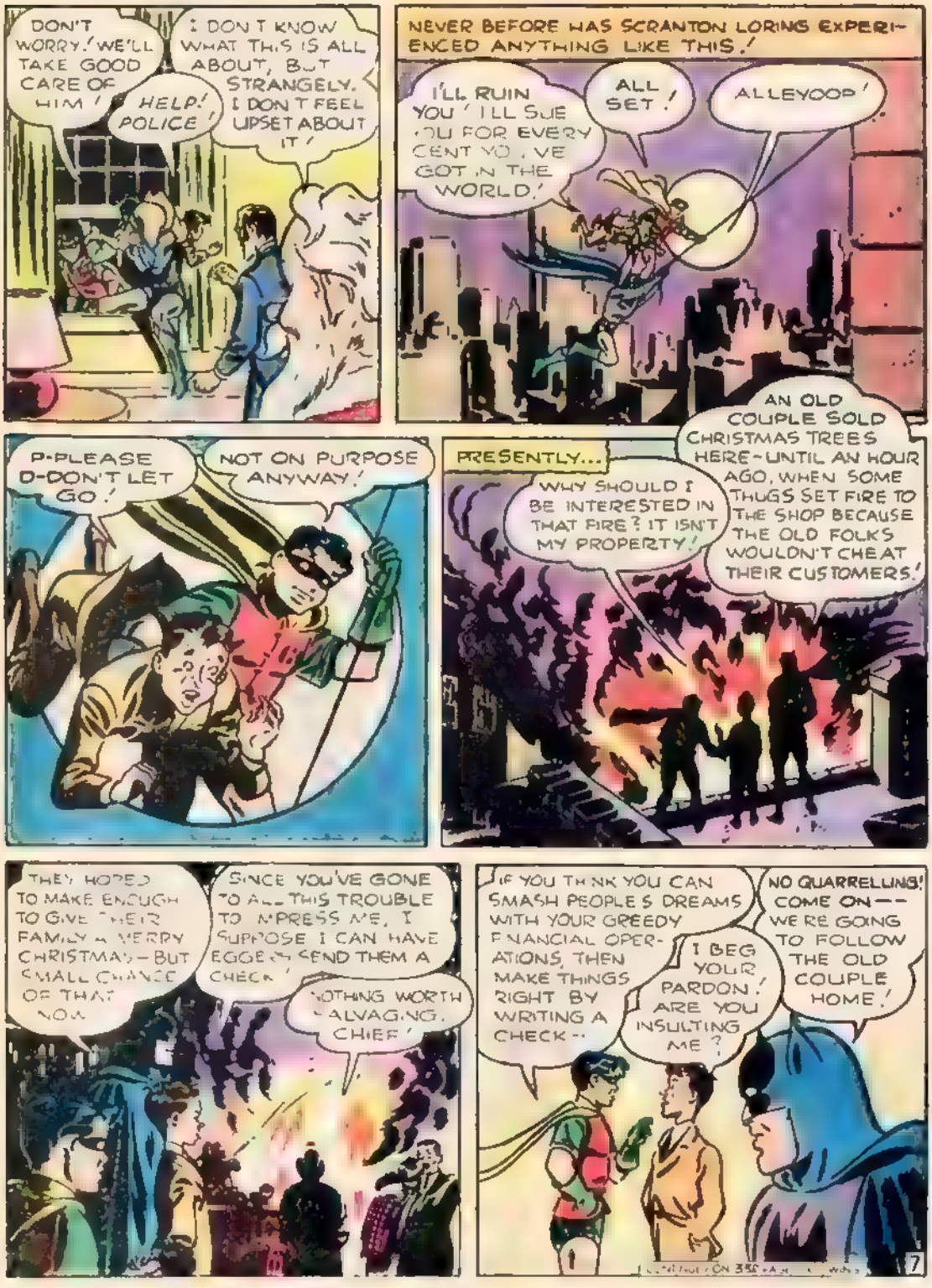
A CHRISTMAS PERIL

GET SMART TO YOURSELF, BATMAN! WITH SCRANTON LORING, THE MULTIMILLIONAIRE BEHIND ME, HOW CAN ANYBODY MAKE TROUBLE FOR ME?
BE PATIENT JUST A LITTLE WHILE! YOU'LL FIND OUT!
YOUNG SCRANTON LORING JUST INHERITED THE FORTUNE OF HIS UNCLE, CALEB LORING, BETTER KNOWN AS OLD SCROOGE!
I NEVER THOUGHT ANYBODY COULD BE MEAN ENOUGH TO TURN CHRISTMAS INTO A RACKET!
THE LORING MANSION- A GLOOMY AND FORBIDDING PILE OF MARBLE...
PUT IN AN UPSTAIRS ROOM, A ROTUND LITTLE MAN CHUCKLES WITH HIGH GOOD HUMOR!
THE MAWSTER WILL SEE YOU NOW, MR. LORING!
RIGHT, GULLIVER! WHAT A SURPRISE THE LITTLE FELLOW WILL GET, MEETING ME FOR THE FIRST TIME!
POOR SCRANTON'S LIFE MUST HAVE BEEN DULL WITH MY GRASPING BROTHER CALEB. AS HIS NEW GUARDIAN, I'LL TRY TO MAKE UP FOR IT!
AND HERE IS SCRANTON LORING, THE RICHEST BOY IN THE WORLD!
LET ME SEE... $953,000 AT 33⅓ PERCENT, WITH 10 PERCENT DEDUCTED FOR OPERATING COSTS...

MERRY CHRISTMAS, SCRANTON!
EH? MY WORD!... EGGERS, WHERE ARE YOU?
EGGERS HOW DID THIS LUNATIC GET IN HERE?
WHY
YOU CERTAINLY AREN'T MUCH LIKE UNCLE CALEB! TAKE OFF THOSE SILLY WHISKERS AND MEET EGGERS MY SECRETARY
BUT THE WHISKERS ARE REAL!
MOST BOYS ARE STUPID-BUT INTERESTED IN THE REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS LIKE UNCLE CALEB WAS. HE TAUGHT ME ALL I KNOW.
ALL CALEB KNEW WAS HOW TO GET RICH AT OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPENSE! THEY USED TO CALL HIM OLD SCROOGE!
THEY CALL ME YOUNG SCROOGE, AND I'M PROUD OF IT! AS FOR ALL THIS SENTIMENTAL STUFF ABOUT CHRISTMAS--
WHILE OTHERS THROW THEIR MONEY AWAY, I'M MAKING A QUARTER-MILLION DOLLARS BY CORNERING ALL CHRISTMAS TREES IN TOWN AND QUADRUPLING PRICES! SHREWD EH?
SHREWD! IT'S INCREDIBLE!
5

A CHRISTMAS PERIL




DON'T WORRY! WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM!
HELP! POLICE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT STRANGELY, I DON'T FEEL UPSET ABOUT IT!
NEVER BEFORE HAS SCRANTON LORING EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
I'LL RUIN YOU! I'LL SUE YOU FOR EVERY CENT YOU'VE GOT IN THE WORLD!
ALL SET!
ALLEYOOP!
P-PLEASE D-DON'T LET GO!
NOT ON PURPOSE ANYWAY!
PRESENTLY...
WHY SHOULD I BE INTERESTED IN THAT FIRE? IT ISN'T MY PROPERTY!
AN OLD COUPLE SOLD CHRISTMAS TREES HERE - UNTIL AN HOUR AGO, WHEN SOME THUGS SET FIRE TO THE SHOP BECAUSE THE OLD FOLKS WOULDN'T CHEAT THEIR CUSTOMERS!
THEY HOPED TO MAKE ENOUGH TO GIVE THEIR FAMILY A MERRY CHRISTMAS - BUT SMALL CHANCE OF THAT NOW.
SINCE YOU'VE GONE TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO IMPRESS ME, I SUPPOSE I CAN HAVE EGGERS SEND THEM A CHECK!
NOTHING WORTH SALVAGING, CHIEF!
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN SMASH PEOPLE'S DREAMS WITH YOUR GREEDY FINANCIAL OPERATIONS, THEN MAKE THINGS RIGHT BY WRITING A CHECK--
I BEG YOUR PARDON! ARE YOU INSULTING ME?
NO QUARRELLING! COME ON -- WE'RE GOING TO FOLLOW THE OLD COUPLE HOME!
7

Wear Zolatron Simulated Diamond Ring 30 Days Free Without Risk or Obligation

SPECIAL OFFER
to readers of this magazine

FULL ONE CARAT$ Simulated Diamond (Set in Genuine Silver Ring) 10.

Zolatron must convince everybody that it's a genuine diamond—or you pay nothing!

The 30-Day Free Trial Certificate shown below gives you the right to wear and enjoy—this ZOLATRON simulated diamond ring for an entire month—without risk or obligation!

WEAR IT—JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

Wear [illegible] privacy of [illegible] Marvel at the [illegible] fiery sparkle. Show it to friends. See how the eyes pop with excitement! After all, they have no way to suspect it isn't a genuine African diamond worth a fortune!

ZOLATRON is completely different from phony-looking plastic "paste" jewels. Previous "big difference" cheap jewels [illegible] with this tough, daring test. To Drop this dense, man-made stone into a cup of "acetone" will remove it. *Don't try it.* Simply rinse it off and it is as good as new! (2) Examine the polished and precision cut facets—how dramatically they shimmer—even in moonlight! (3) Inspect it carefully under a 10-power, lens-mounted magnifier. Not a bubble, crack or carbon speck!

Yet We challenge you to compare ZOLATRON with costly African diamonds. Not one diamond in a hundred is extracted from the [illegible] Kimberley Mine [illegible] for absolute perfection! That's why even an expert might confuse it for a regular diamond!

UNDER 1% PRICE OF DIAMONDS!

Now you can [illegible] ZOLATRON [illegible] Ring for only $10 [illegible] LIMITED OFFER. The [illegible] cost a carat [illegible] $1,000 or more. Yet the resemblance between a diamond and ZOLATRON is so striking, only an expert can tell them apart!

DON'T LET LOW PRICE CONFUSE YOU!

Because ZOLATRON costs only $10, don't confuse it with cheap, dull fakes. This man-made stone is not another plastic jewel. ZOLATRON is one of the world's most dazzling simulated diamonds! Mounted in a beautiful Sterling Ring at [illegible] costly [illegible] When you see it, your eyes [illegible] truly an impressive ring of rare beauty and elegance. And each ring is guaranteed to give you a lifetime of wear and enjoyment! Of course, ZOLATRON is different from natural diamonds. But the most pleasant difference of all is that you can own a ZOLATRON for only $10 [illegible] or $1,200.00.

MILLIONAIRES ALSO WEAR SIMULATIONS!

Many wealthy [illegible] wear simulated [illegible] ever [illegible] the regret to themselves. These [illegible] diamonds your friends are wearing may not be genuine [illegible] at all! ZOLATRONS are so unbelievably real looking that they even fool [illegible] That's why many rich people, actors, actresses and celebrities [illegible] Their impress [illegible] friends are saved risk of burglars or [illegible] Of course, rich people do own costly African diamonds. But many keep them locked up in bank vaults!

LIFETIME GIFT FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL!

ZOLATRONS last a lifetime and [illegible] regular diamonds! ZOLATRONS make thrilling exciting gifts for special occasions [illegible] anniversary, birthday or graduation [illegible] or just a delightful surprise for [illegible] *Special.* She'll never know ZOLATRON isn't a genuine diamond—unless you tell her! This *Gift of Happiness* costs only $10—while supplies are available. By choosing a ZOLATRON you save plenty for a down payment on a car, stocks or real estate. Many smart people have switched to simulated diamonds. Now you can also—at small cost. *You take no risk.* Our 2 guarantees give you *complete* protection!

ZOLATRON LIFETIME GUARANTEE
Zolatron is unconditionally guaranteed for life against all defects. If found faulty during buyer's lifetime it will be replaced or we will refund purchase price. This guarantee is in addition to regular 30 day money back guarantee.

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(1) LIMIT no more than ONE lady's or ONE man's ring per reader at this price. If you wish you may order both rings but no more than one of each. (2) Shipped only to USA or Canada. (3) Sold only by mail—none sold in stores. (4) Guaranteed for lifetime of purchaser. Never defective. (5) No COD or phone orders. (6) Satisfaction guaranteed or money back guarantee. (7) IMPORTANT: This is a strictly LIMITED OFFER. Orders arriving after stock is sold out will be returned to senders promptly.

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This Certificate entitles you to ONE lady's ring or 30 day free trial. Send only $10 for prompt prepaid delivery. Complete satisfaction guaranteed or money back. If only ONE MAN'S ring is wanted check box at the bottom of this page.

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* JULIE SCHWARTZ... THAT'S ME! I'LL GIVE YOU A PEEK INTO MY EDITORIAL MIND, TO SHOW YOU HOW I HANDLE MY SUPER-HEROES AND THE NEW *JOKER* MAG!

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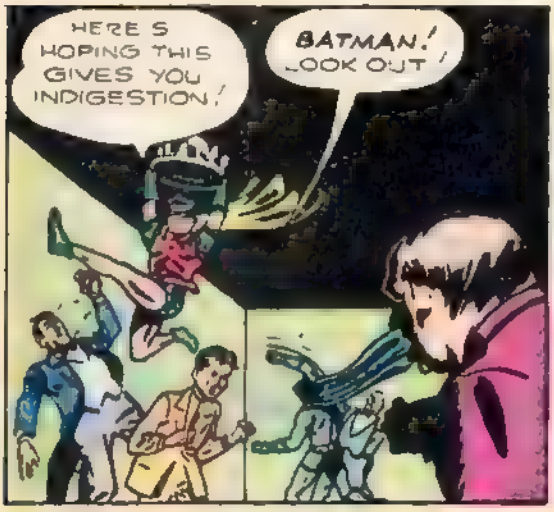
A CHRISTMAS PERIL

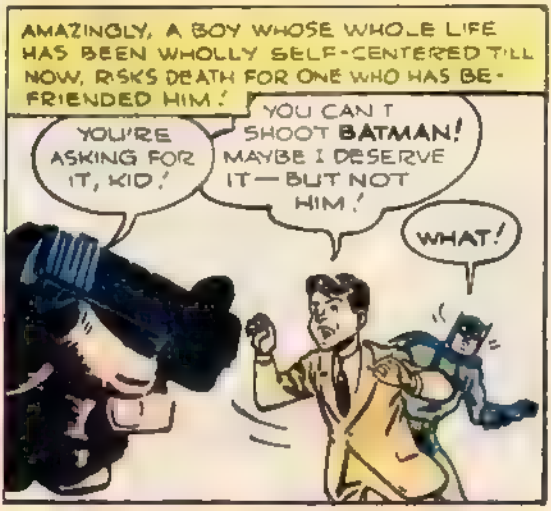
IN AN UNHEATED TENEMENT...
MY SON IS DEAD AND MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW ILL! MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE BARELY BEEN ABLE TO EARN ENOUGH TO KEEP THE CHILDREN ALIVE!
YOU SEE WHAT THEY WERE UP AGAINST ALREADY, BEFORE YOUR—AH—REPRESENTATIVES CAME AROUND?
I NEVER KNEW PEOPLE WERE AS MISERABLE AS THIS!
BATMAN, WILL IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I GIVE THEM WHAT MONEY I HAVE WITH ME? NOT AS CHARITY—I'D REALLY LIKE TO?
OF COURSE, SCRANTON!
IS IT POSSIBLE HE HAS A HEART, AFTER ALL?
MEANWHILE, IN THE LORING MANSION..
WITH UNCLE TIM AGAINST US AND BATMAN IN THE PICTURE, WE'D BETTER MOVE FAST, GULLIVER!
I WAS THINKING THE SAME!
I DON'T TRUST EITHER OF THEM!
I'LL PHONE HOGGSBY AND TELL HIM TO COLLECT FROM THE CHRISTMAS TREE SALES RIGHT AWAY!
THANKS TO CALEB'S LONG ILLNESS AND THE BRAT'S STUPIDITY, I'VE HAD TIME TO TRANSFER MOST OF HIS FORTUNE TO THE THREE OF US!
NO WONDER MY NEPHEW DOESN'T BELIEVE IN CHRISTMAS! TRAINED BY MY MONEY-MAD BROTHER—SURROUNDED BY THIEVES—
OH, OH! TIME FOR STERN MEASURES, GULLIVER!
SO I SEE!
THAT WILL KEEP HIM QUIET FOR THE PRESENT!
AND IT'S UP TO HOGGSBY TO SILENCE THE OLD FOOL PERMANENTLY! HE COULD SEND US ALL TO PRISON!

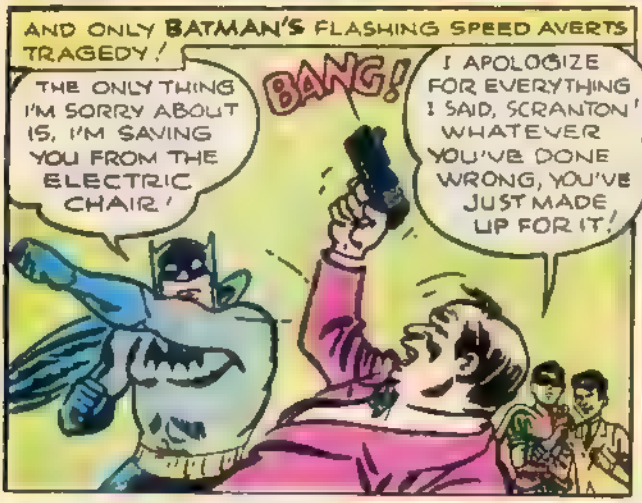
AT THAT MOMENT...
THERE'S A PATIENT HERE YOU OUGHT TO SEE!
I MUST WARN EGGERS AGAINST VIOLENCE FROM NOW ON
YOU'RE CATCHING ON, FELLA—SLOW BUT SURE!
I'M SORRY, MRS. MEEKER! YOUR HUSBAND IS PASSING THROUGH A CRISIS AND MUST NOT BE DISTURBED!
POOR JOE! HE NEVER HARMED ANYONE IN HIS LIFE—AND THOSE BRUTES BEAT HIM NEARLY TO DEATH!
JOE MEEKER RUNS A FLOWERS SHOP SCRANTON. HE WAS SELLING CHRISTMAS TREES AT A FAIR PRICE
WHERE'S THE SUPERINTENDENT? I WANT MEEKER TO HAVE THE BEST DOCTORS AVAILABLE—AND HANG THE EXPENSE!
NOW YOU'RE STARTING TO ACT LIKE A HUMAN BEING!
YOU'RE GETTING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT OF GIVING—NOT TAKING!
WE'LL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE, MR. LORING—AND SEND THE BILL TO YOU!
NOW, IF I ONLY KNEW WHO EGGERS' AGENT WAS, I'D GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND!
WE KNOW—AND WE'LL BE GLAD TO SHOW YOU!
I'LL MAKE HIM GIVE ME A LIST OF EVERY BIT OF DAMAGE HIS MEN HAVE CAUSED!
I'M AFRAID SCRANTON HAS A SHOCK COMING—BUT IT MAY BE JUST WHAT HE NEEDS TO COMPLETE THE CURE!
JUST RING THE BELL AND ASK FOR HOGGSBY!
I'M SCRANTON LORING! PUT THAT PISTOL AWAY AND TAKE ME TO MR. HOGGSBY, IMMEDIATELY!
WELL, I'LL BE DA WARDEN'S PET! COME RIGHT IN!
9

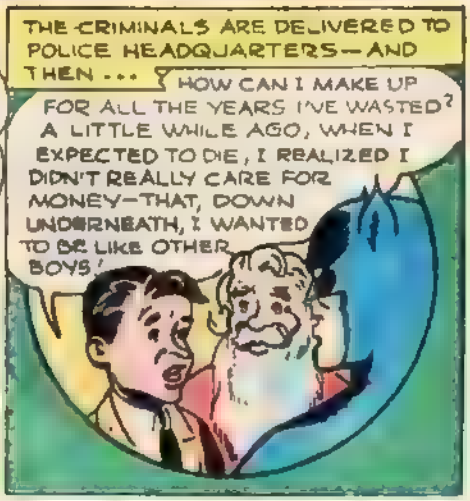
A CHRISTMAS PERIL

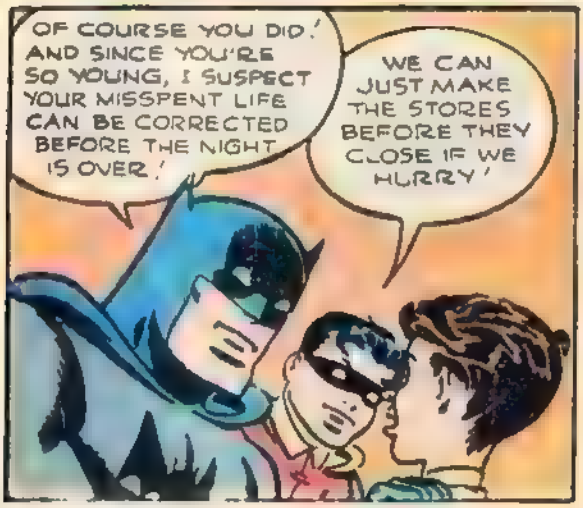
ANNOUNCIN HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS YOUNG SCROOGE LORING!
EGGERS! GULLIVER! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
YOU'D BE SURPRISED!
UNCLE TIM! IS THIS SOME KIND OF SILLY GAME?
MY POOR BOY, I WISH IT WAS! BUT THE TRUTH IS, I LEARNED EGGERS AND GULLIVER HAD STOLEN YOUR FORTUNE, AND--
AN' SO I'M GONNA BUMP HIM OFF NICE AN' QUIET, WIT' DIS SILENCED PISTOL!
IS IT TRUE? HAVE YOU ROBBED ME? AM I POOR-- PENNILESS- AFTER ALL MY EFFORTS TO GET RICHER?
DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU, KID! YOU WON'T NEED A CENT WHERE YOU AND SANTA CLAUS ARE GOING!
I SHALL SEE THAT THE FUNERAL IS DULY IMPRESSIVE, MAWSTER SCRANTON!
SHUT UP! DO YOU WANT TO SPOIL EVERY-THING?
NO! YOU CAN'T DO IT! BATMAN! ROBIN!... UGH!
WHAT AN UNDIGNIFIED WAY FOR A YOUNG MULTI-MILLION-AIRE TO BEHAVE!
AN INSTANT LATER...
HOLD STILL, SCRANTON, TILL-- YIIII! BATMAN!
WHAT'S THIS?... WHY YOU ROTTEN MURDERERS!
THANK GOODNESS!
YOUR DAYS OF USING GUNS ON CHILDREN ARE OVER!
BE RIGHT WITH YOU, SCRANTON!
10

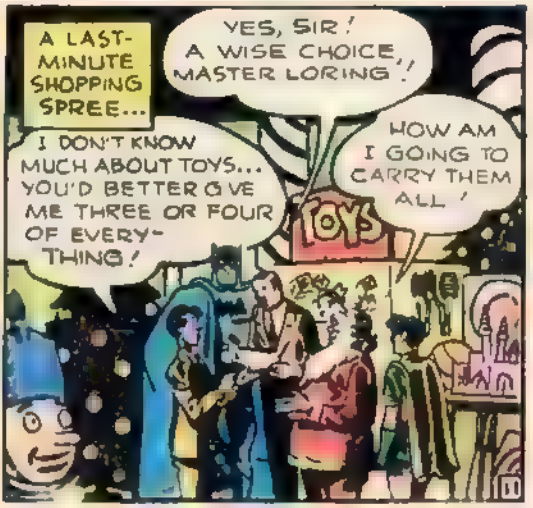

HERE'S HOPING THIS GIVES YOU INDIGESTION!
BATMAN! LOOK OUT!


AMAZINGLY, A BOY WHOSE WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN WHOLLY SELF-CENTERED TILL NOW, RISKS DEATH FOR ONE WHO HAS BEFRIENDED HIM!
YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT, KID!
YOU CAN'T SHOOT BATMAN! MAYBE I DESERVE IT—BUT NOT HIM!
WHAT!

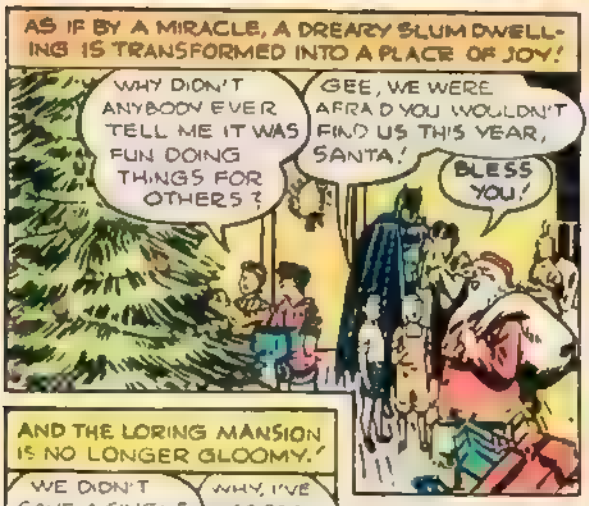

AND ONLY BATMAN'S FLASHING SPEED AVERTS TRAGEDY!
THE ONLY THING I'M SORRY ABOUT IS, I'M SAVING YOU FROM THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
BANG!
I APOLOGIZE FOR EVERYTHING I SAID, SCRANTON! WHATEVER YOU'VE DONE WRONG, YOU'VE JUST MADE UP FOR IT!

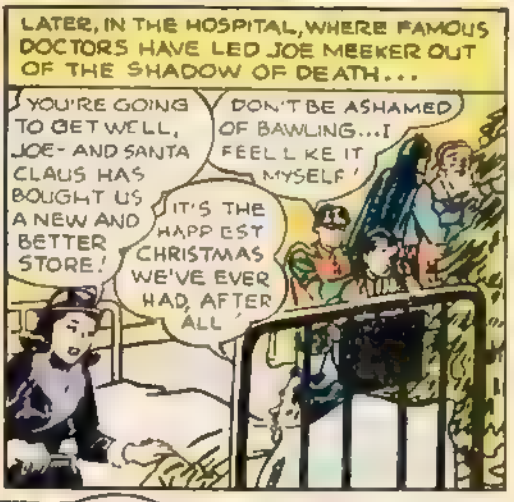

THE CRIMINALS ARE DELIVERED TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS—AND THEN...
HOW CAN I MAKE UP FOR ALL THE YEARS I'VE WASTED? A LITTLE WHILE AGO, WHEN I EXPECTED TO DIE, I REALIZED I DIDN'T REALLY CARE FOR MONEY—THAT, DOWN UNDERNEATH, I WANTED TO BE LIKE OTHER BOYS!


OF COURSE YOU DID! AND SINCE YOU'RE SO YOUNG, I SUSPECT YOUR MISSPENT LIFE CAN BE CORRECTED BEFORE THE NIGHT IS OVER!
WE CAN JUST MAKE THE STORES BEFORE THEY CLOSE IF WE HURRY!

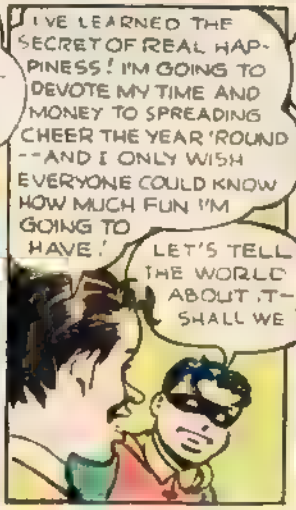

A LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING SPREE...
YES, SIR! A WISE CHOICE, MASTER LORING!
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT TOYS... YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME THREE OR FOUR OF EVERYTHING!
HOW AM I GOING TO CARRY THEM ALL!
TOYS

A CHRISTMAS PERIL


AS IF BY A MIRACLE, A DREARY SLUM DWELLING IS TRANSFORMED INTO A PLACE OF JOY!
WHY DIDN'T ANYBODY EVER TELL ME IT WAS FUN DOING THINGS FOR OTHERS?
GEE, WE WERE AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T FIND US THIS YEAR, SANTA!
BLESS YOU!


LATER, IN THE HOSPITAL, WHERE FAMOUS DOCTORS HAVE LED JOE MEEKER OUT OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH...
YOU'RE GOING TO GET WELL, JOE - AND SANTA CLAUS HAS BOUGHT US A NEW AND BETTER STORE!
DON'T BE ASHAMED OF BAWLING...I FEEL LIKE IT MYSELF!
IT'S THE HAPPIEST CHRISTMAS WE'VE EVER HAD, AFTER ALL!

AND THE LORING MANSION IS NO LONGER GLOOMY!
WE DIDN'T SAVE A SINGLE PRESENT FOR SCRANTON!
WHY, I'VE JUST BEEN GIVEN THE FINEST PRESENT ON EARTH — SOMETHING ALL MY FORTUNE COULDN'T BUY


I'VE LEARNED THE SECRET OF REAL HAPPINESS! I'M GOING TO DEVOTE MY TIME AND MONEY TO SPREADING CHEER THE YEAR 'ROUND — AND I ONLY WISH EVERYONE COULD KNOW HOW MUCH FUN I'M GOING TO HAVE!
LET'S TELL THE WORLD ABOUT IT — SHALL WE?

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL FROM UNCLE TIM!
AND FROM YOUNG SCROOGE LORING — WHO WON'T BE KNOWN BY THAT NAME ANY LONGER!
AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYBODY, FROM BATMAN —
AND ROBIN!
THE END

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WE ARE FOUR WEAPONS, DEVISED FOR THE BATMAN'S USE...
...BY HIS ADMIRERS! EACH OF US WAS TO BE TRIED OUT...
1
2
3
4
...BUT ONLY ONE WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE MASKED MANHUNTER!
WHAT WE ARE, AND WHICH OF US WON, YOU'LL FIND IN THE FOLLOWING ADVENTURE!
BATMAN
WITH ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
THE SILKEN LASSO, THE UTILITY BELT, THE BATARANG, THE BATPLANE, THE BATMOBILE--EVERYONE HAS SEEN BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, USE THESE AMAZING TOOLS TO FIGHT CRIME! BUT SUDDENLY, A UNIQUE, NEW "BAT-WEAPON" MAKES ITS APPEARANCE! WHAT IS THIS NEW INVENTION? HOW IS IT USED? ALL THESE QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO UNVEILS THE AMAZING WINNER IN...
THE GREAT BATMAN CONTEST
ROBIN, SOMEWHERE IN THIS CAVE IS AN INVENTION THAT WILL BECOME A GREAT WEAPON IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST CRIME!
YES- BUT WHICH ONE? WHICH ONE?
BOB KANE
EXCITING NEWS IS REPORTED IN A NATION-WIDE TELE-CAST ONE EVENING
TODAY, IN GOTHAM CITY, BATMAN ANNOUNCED HE'D AWARD A BATMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR A FOUR-YEAR COURSE IN CRIMINOLOGY TO THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO INVENTS THE BEST NEW "BAT-WEAPON"!
THE WINNER'S INVENTION WILL BECOME A PERMANENT ADDITION TO BATMAN'S ALREADY FAMOUS CRIME-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS HIS UTILITY BELT AND HIS BATMOBILE!

SOON, ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, YOUNG HOPEFULS LIKE JEFF KEATING WORK HARD AT PERFECTING THEIR INVENTIONS...
THE DAY THE CONTEST CLOSES, THE FLOOR OF THE BAT-CAVE IS PILED HIGH WITH SCORES OF UNUSUAL ENTRIES...
MY INVENTION JUST HAS TO WIN! I WANT THAT SCHOLARSHIP SO I CAN LEARN HOW TO FIGHT CRIME!
GOSH, BATMAN, WE'VE REALLY GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US!
YES, ROBIN! IT'S TOO BAD SO MANY OF THESE INVENTIONS ARE NOT PRACTICAL!
LIKE THIS FLASHLIGHT-PROJECTOR EQUIPPED WITH MICRO-FILM SLIDES CONTAINING AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CRIMINOLOGY FOR HANDY REFERENCE!
"...AND SOME ARE TOO RISKY, LIKE THESE PLANS FOR A BATMOBILE-CANNON THAT WOULD CATAPULT ME TO ROOFTOPS!"
PRESENTLY, AFTER EXAMINING THE NUMEROUS ENTRIES, FOUR INVENTIONS ARE SELECTED...
NOW WE'LL GIVE EACH ONE THE ULTIMATE TEST! THE ONE WHICH WE FIND MOST USEFUL IN AN ACTUAL BATMAN CASE WILL BE THE WINNER!
OF THEM ALL, I'D SAY INVENTION NUMBER FOUR HAS THE BEST CHANCE TO WIN!
3
1
2
4
THAT NIGHT, AS THE DYNAMIC DUO PATROLS GOTHAM CITY IN THE SLEEK BATMOBILE..
BATMAN! LOOK! STILTS MORGAN--THE HARBOR PIRATE AND HIS MOB!
THEY'RE MAKING THEIR GETAWAY IN THAT SPEED-BOAT!
THEY WON'T GET FAR--IF INVENTION NUMBER ONE IS ANY GOOD! LET'S TEST IT RIGHT NOW!
2

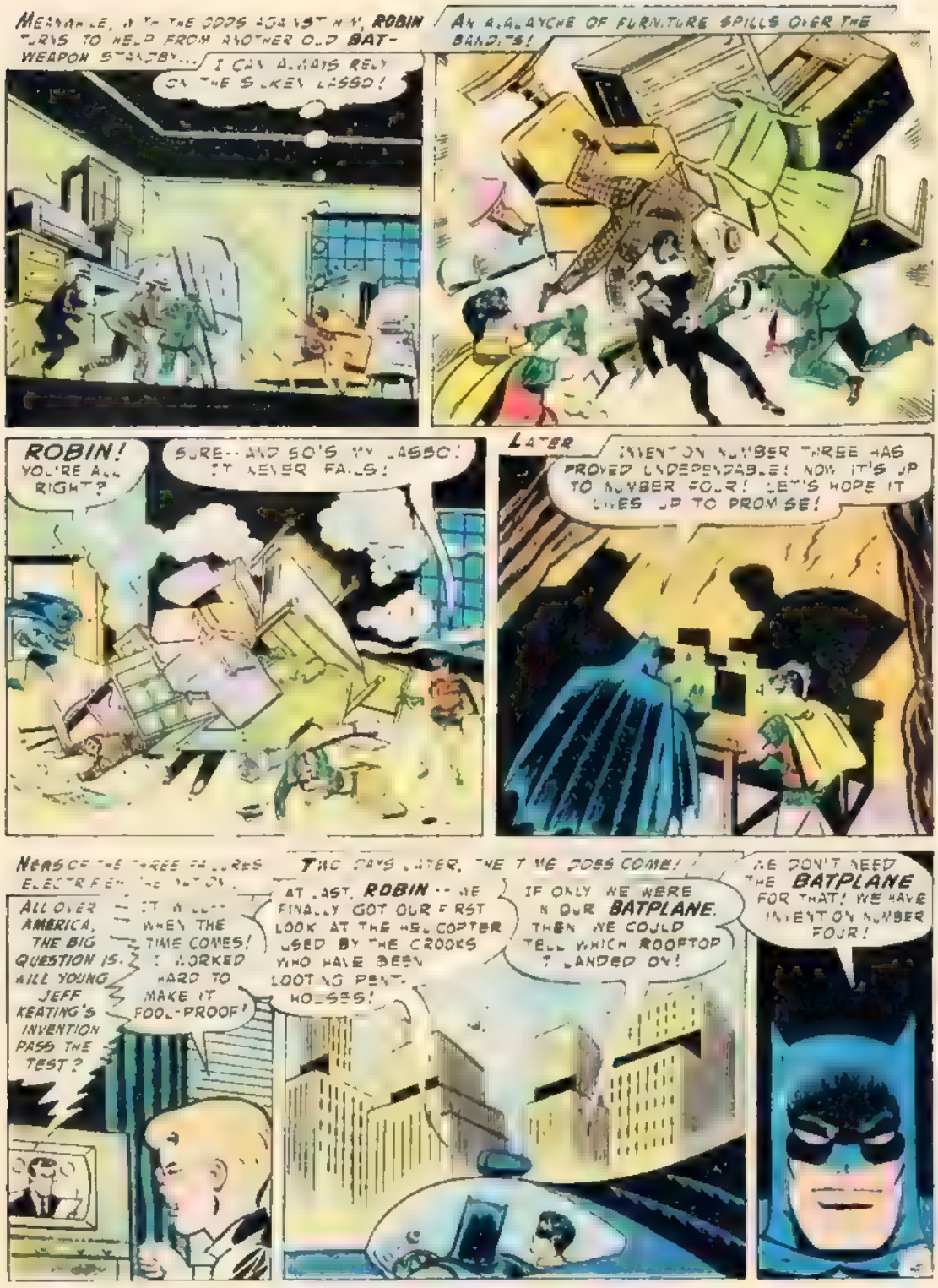
THE GREAT BATMAN CONTEST

INVENTION NUMBER ONE -- AN INSTANTLY INFLATABLE WATER-CRAFT MADE OF CLEAR PLASTIC
ACCORDING TO THE INVENTOR, THESE COMPRESSED AIR CYLINDERS IN THE STERN WILL PROPEL IT FORWARD LIKE A JET! LET'S SEE IF IT DOES!
A SPLIT SECOND LATER, WITH A RUSH OF RELEASED COMPRESSED AIR, THE PLASTIC BOAT DARTS FORWARD..
YAHOO! IT WORKS!
MINUTES PASS AS THE FANTASTIC CRAFT PURSUES THE SPEEDBOAT, WHEN SUDDENLY...
WE'RE SLOWING DOWN! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WE'RE OUT OF FUEL! THE TROUBLE WITH THIS "BOAT" IS THAT IT CAN ONLY RUN FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES!
AND SO, INVENTION NUMBER ONE IS REJECTED, AS BATMAN USES A TIME-TESTED BAT-WEAPON AGAINST CRIME -- HIS RELIABLE BELT-RADIO..
BATMAN CALLING HARBOR PATROL! HAVE SPOTTED STILTS MORGAN MOB! WILL GIVE LOCATION..
LATER, WHEN THE HARBOR POLICE CONTACT THE DYNAMIC DUO...
WE ARRESTED MORGAN'S MOB, BUT MORGAN GAVE US THE SLIP!
WE JUST GOT WORD HE'S HIDING OUT IN THE LIGHTHOUSE!
POLICE GOTHAM CITY
SOON AFTER, AT THE LIGHTHOUSE, WHERE THE DEFIANT MOBSTER HAS BARRICADED HIMSELF IN THE WATCHTOWER...
I GOT THE DOORS BARRED FROM THE INSIDE! IF ANYONE TRIES TO BREAK IN, HE'S GONNA GET BLASTED!
I HAD A HUNCH THIS WOULD HAPPEN! THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT ALONG INVENTION NUMBER TWO -- SUCTION SHOES FOR WALKING UP THE SIDES OF BUILDINGS!
2
3

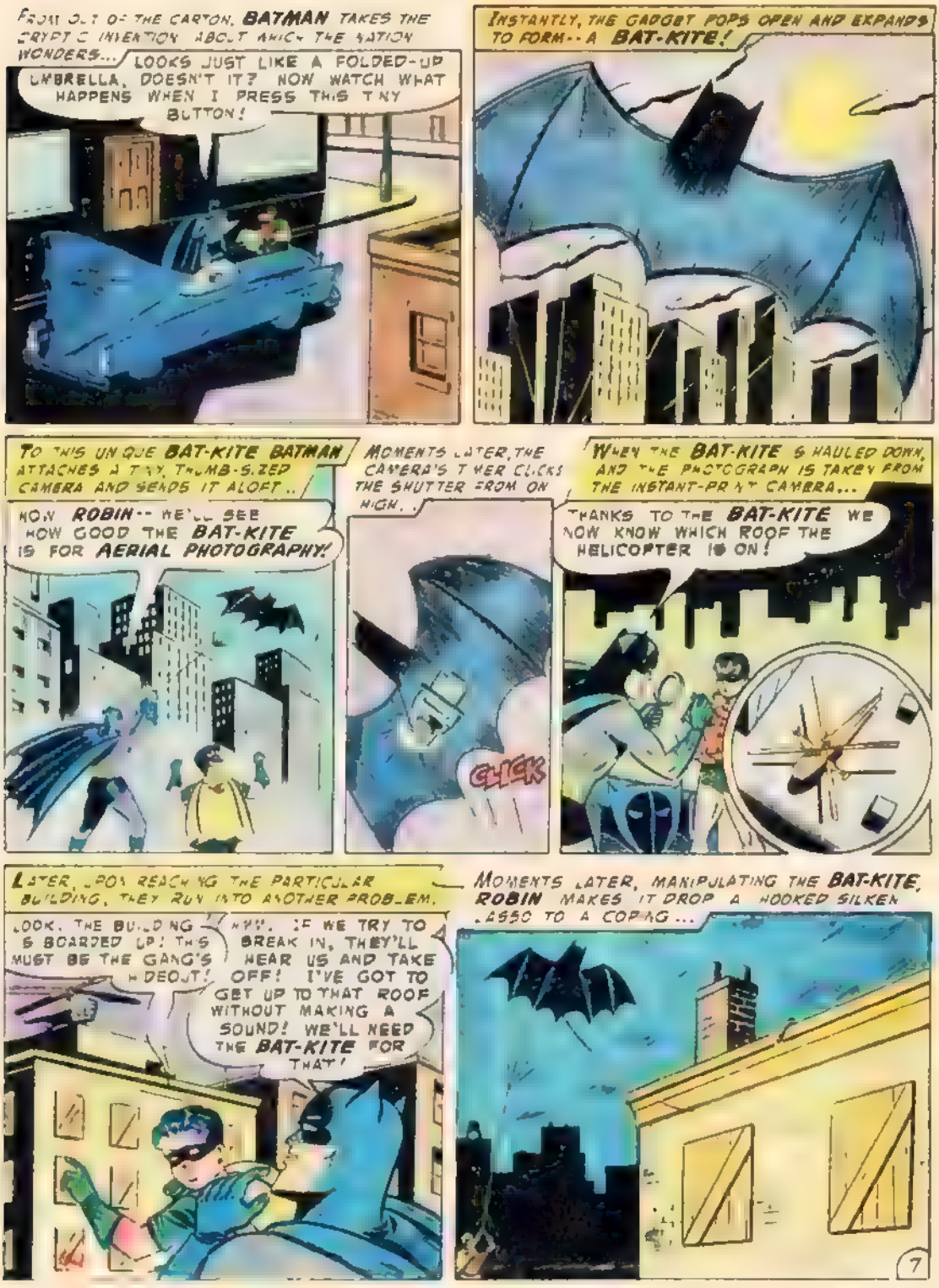
MOMENTS LATER, LIKE A HUMAN FLY, BATMAN MOVED SLOWLY BUT SURELY UP THE SLICK SURFACE OF THE LIGHTHOUSE.
STILTS CAN'T SEE ME BECAUSE I'M COMING UP BEHIND HIM!
THEN, AS THUNDER RUMBLES...
IT'S STARTING TO RAIN! WELL, JUST A SHORT WAY TO GO NOW! IT LOOKS AS IF INVENTION NUMBER TWO MAY BE THE WINNER!
SUDDENLY, AS BATMAN TRIES TO WRENCH ONE FOOT FREE TO TAKE ANOTHER STEP, HE REALIZES HE CANNOT MOVE...
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE RAIN! THE FILM OF WATER ON THE SLICK SURFACE ACTS LIKE A SEAL AND MAKES THE SUCTION CUPS PERFECT VACUUMS!
AT THAT MOMENT, THE RESTLESS GUNMAN SPIES THE HELPLESS CRIME-FIGHTER...
HAW! BATMAN -- STUCK LIKE A HUMAN FLY ON FLY PAPER! YOU'RE AN EASY TARGET, BATMAN!
ONCE AGAIN, BATMAN IS FORCED TO REJECT A NEW INVENTION AND USE AN OLD RELIABLE... THE BATARANG!
HUH! MY GUN!
WEAPONLESS, STILTS SURRENDERS TO THE POLICE WHO RESCUE BATMAN! LATER...
INVENTIONS ONE AND TWO FAILED THE TEST! THAT LEAVES ONLY WEAPONS THREE AND FOUR!
YES AND OF THEM BOTH I'D SAY THE VERY SIMPLICITY OF INVENTION FOUR WILL MAKE IT THE WINNER!
4
1
2
3

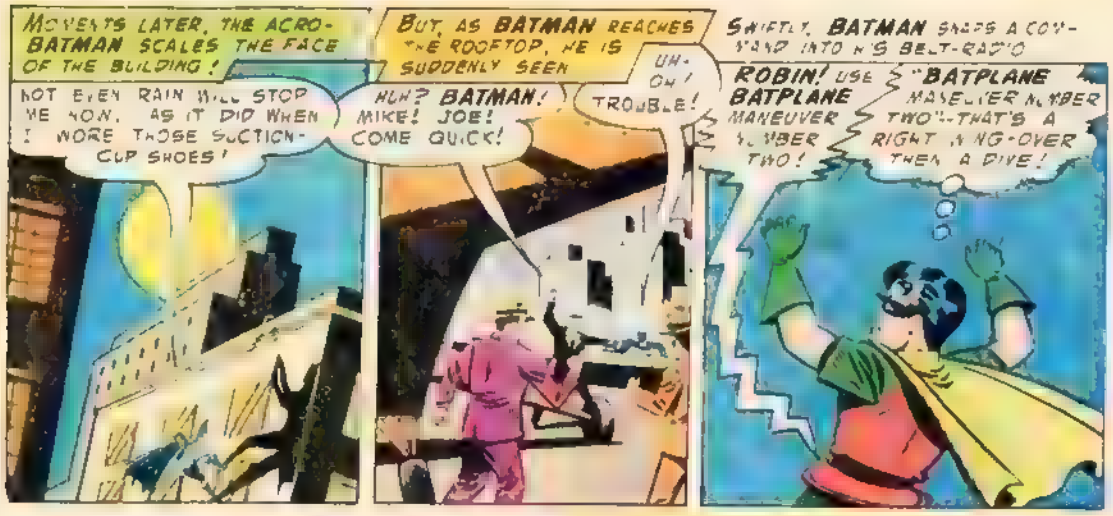
THE GREAT BATMAN CONTEST

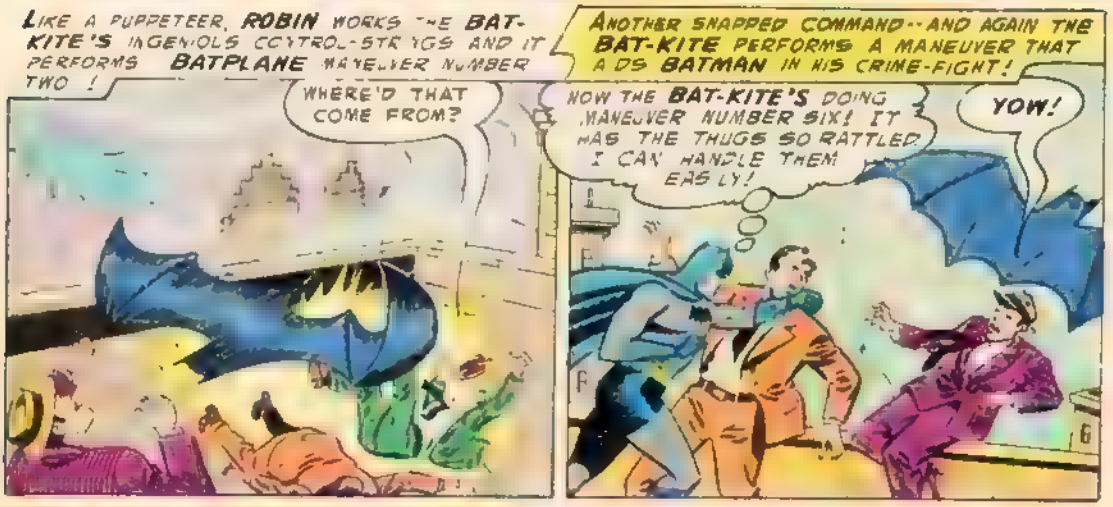
THE NEXT NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN PATROL GOTHAM'S STREETS...
OVER THERE, BATMAN! MASKED MEN!
BATMAN AND ROBIN! QUICK-- BACK INTO THE BUILDING! SPLIT UP INSIDE! THAT WAY WE GOT A CHANCE!
AS THE BANDITS DISAPPEAR INTO THE WAREHOUSE..
THE ONLY WAY TO OUTWIT THEIR STRATEGY IS TO COPY IT-- WITH A DIFFERENCE! WE'LL USE INVENTION NUMBER THREE--THESE PORTABLE TV- WALKIE-TALKIE OUTFITS!
SOON AFTER, BATMAN AND ROBIN KEEP IN VISUAL CONTACT THOUGH THEY SEARCH THROUGH DIFFERENT ROOMS OF THE VAST WAREHOUSE...
AM ENTERING FURNITURE STORAGE ROOM OF WEST WING! NOTHING DOING SO FAR!
SO! SEE!
SUDDENLY, DANGER ENCIRCLES THE BOY WONDER...
ROBIN! LOOK OUT! THEY'VE GOT YOU SURROUNDED!
I CAN'T GET TO YOU IN TIME, ROBIN-- BUT DON'T WORRY! I'LL BE YOUR EYES! CAREFUL-- TWO ARE COMING AT YOU FROM BEHIND!
THEN IT HAPPENS--THE TV SCREEN SHOWS ONLY JAGGED LINES!
ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE-- FROM A MOTOR OF SOME KIND NEARBY!
JUST WHEN WE DEPENDED ON IT MOST, INVENTION NUMBER THREE FAILED US! I HOPE I CAN GET TO THAT ROOM IN TIME TO HELP ROBIN!

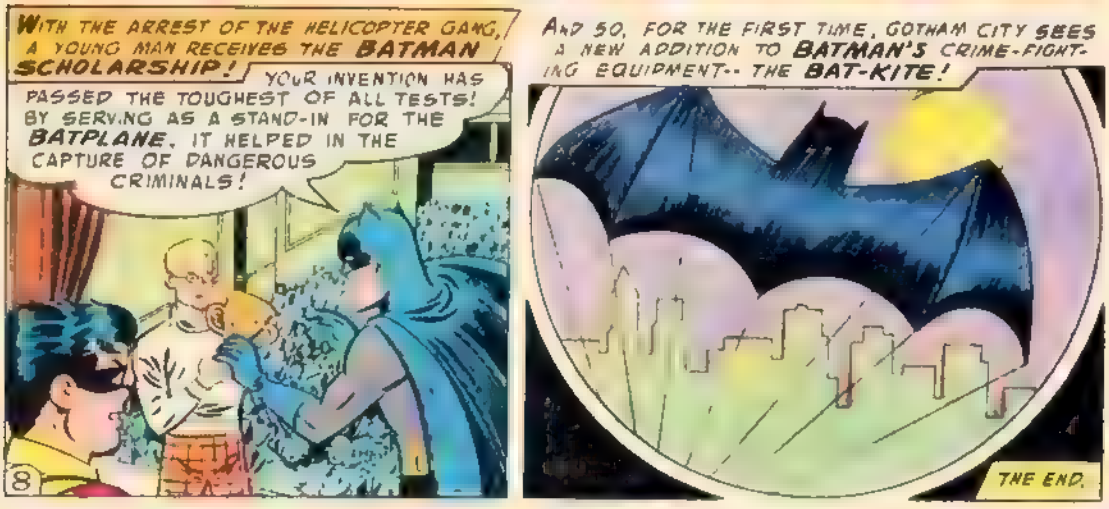

MEANWHILE, AS THE ODDS AGAINST HIM, ROBIN TURNS TO HELP FROM ANOTHER OLD BAT-WEAPON STANDBY...
I CAN ALWAYS RELY ON THE SLIKEN LASSO!
AN AVALANCHE OF FURNITURE SPILLS OVER THE BANDITS!
ROBIN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
SURE--AND SO'S MY LASSO! IT NEVER FAILS!
LATER
INVENTION NUMBER THREE HAS PROVED UNDEPENDABLE! NOW IT'S UP TO NUMBER FOUR! LET'S HOPE IT LIVES UP TO PROMISE!
NEARS OF THE THREE FAILURES ELECTRIFIED THE NATION.
ALL OVER AMERICA, THE BIG QUESTION IS: WILL YOUNG JEFF KEATING'S INVENTION PASS THE TEST?
IT WON'T FAIL WHEN THE TIME COMES! I WORKED HARD TO MAKE IT FOOL-PROOF!
TWO DAYS LATER, THE TIME DOES COME!
AT LAST, ROBIN -- WE FINALLY GOT OUR FIRST LOOK AT THE HELICOPTER USED BY THE CROOKS WHO HAVE BEEN LOOTING PENT-HOUSES!
IF ONLY WE WERE IN OUR BATPLANE. THEN WE COULD TELL WHICH ROOFTOP IT LANDED ON!
WE DON'T NEED THE BATPLANE FOR THAT! WE HAVE INVENTION NUMBER FOUR!

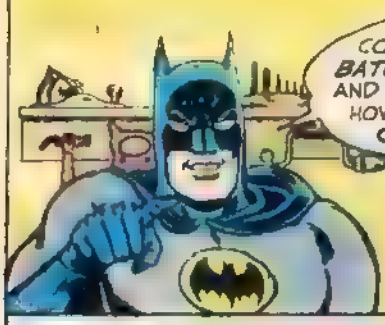
THE GREAT BATMAN CONTEST


FROM OUT OF THE CARTON, BATMAN TAKES THE CRYPTIC INVENTION ABOUT WHICH THE NATION WONDERS...
LOOKS JUST LIKE A FOLDED-UP UMBRELLA, DOESN'T IT? NOW WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I PRESS THIS TINY BUTTON!
INSTANTLY, THE GADGET POPS OPEN AND EXPANDS TO FORM--A BAT-KITE!
TO THIS UNIQUE BAT-KITE BATMAN ATTACHES A TINY, THUMB-SIZED CAMERA AND SENDS IT ALOFT..
NOW ROBIN--WE'LL SEE HOW GOOD THE BAT-KITE IS FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY!
MOMENTS LATER, THE CAMERA'S TIMER CLICKS THE SHUTTER FROM ON HIGH..
CLICK
WHEN THE BAT-KITE IS HAULED DOWN, AND THE PHOTOGRAPH IS TAKEN FROM THE INSTANT-PRINT CAMERA...
THANKS TO THE BAT-KITE WE NOW KNOW WHICH ROOF THE HELICOPTER IS ON!
LATER, UPON REACHING THE PARTICULAR BUILDING, THEY RUN INTO ANOTHER PROBLEM.
LOOK. THE BUILDING IS BOARDED UP! THIS MUST BE THE GANG'S HIDEOUT!
HMM. IF WE TRY TO BREAK IN, THEY'LL HEAR US AND TAKE OFF! I'VE GOT TO GET UP TO THAT ROOF WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND! WE'LL NEED THE BAT-KITE FOR THAT!
MOMENTS LATER, MANIPULATING THE BAT-KITE, ROBIN MAKES IT DROP A HOOKED SILKEN LASSO TO A COPING...
7


MOMENTS LATER, THE ACRO-BATMAN SCALES THE FACE OF THE BUILDING!
NOT EVEN RAIN WILL STOP ME NOW. AS IT DID WHEN I WORE THOSE SUCTION-CUP SHOES!
BUT, AS BATMAN REACHES THE ROOFTOP, HE IS SUDDENLY SEEN
HUH? BATMAN! MIKE! JOE! COME QUICK!
UH-OH! TROUBLE!
SWIFTLY, BATMAN SNAPS A COMMAND INTO HIS BELT-RADIO
ROBIN! USE BATPLANE MANEUVER NUMBER TWO!
"BATPLANE MANEUVER NUMBER TWO"—THAT'S A RIGHT WING-OVER THEN A DIVE!


LIKE A PUPPETEER, ROBIN WORKS THE BAT-KITE'S INGENIOUS CONTROL-STRINGS AND IT PERFORMS BATPLANE MANEUVER NUMBER TWO!
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
ANOTHER SNAPPED COMMAND—AND AGAIN THE BAT-KITE PERFORMS A MANEUVER THAT AIDS BATMAN IN HIS CRIME-FIGHT!
NOW THE BAT-KITE'S DOING MANEUVER NUMBER SIX! IT HAS THE THUGS SO RATTLED I CAN HANDLE THEM EASILY!
YOW!


WITH THE ARREST OF THE HELICOPTER GANG, A YOUNG MAN RECEIVES THE BATMAN SCHOLARSHIP!
YOUR INVENTION HAS PASSED THE TOUGHEST OF ALL TESTS! BY SERVING AS A STAND-IN FOR THE BATPLANE, IT HELPED IN THE CAPTURE OF DANGEROUS CRIMINALS!
AND SO, FOR THE FIRST TIME, GOTHAM CITY SEES A NEW ADDITION TO BATMAN'S CRIME-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT—THE BAT-KITE!
THE END.



BATMAN WORKSHOP

The BAT KITE

MATERIAL NEEDED
BAMBOO - ¼ INCH BY ⅛ INCH THICK. 2 PIECES 24 INCHES LONG, 2 PIECES 6 IN. LONG.
WIRE - 4 INCHES
STRING AND PAPER

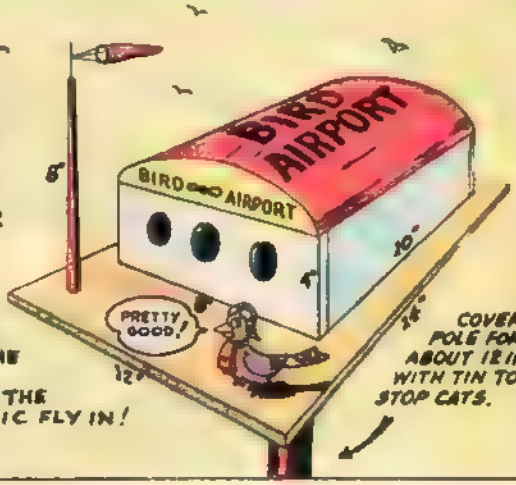
CROSS THE TWO 24-INCH BAMBOO STICKS 5 IN. FROM ONE END AND TIE TOGETHER AT A. TIE A PIECE OF STRING 5 IN. LONG ON EACH SHORT END AT D. BEND LONG ENDS BACK UNTIL THEY ARE IN SHAPE OF WINGS, AND TIE STRING FROM ENDS C TO A. NOW TIE THE TWO 6 INCH BAMBOO STICKS AS SHOWN AT D AND E. BEND WIRE TO FORM THE HEAD AND EARS OF BAT, AND TIE TO BAMBOO AT F. THE BAT-KITE FRAME IS NOW COMPLETE AND READY TO BE COVERED WITH PAPER.

TO COVER THE BAT-KITE, PLACE THE FRAME YOU HAVE MADE ON A PIECE OF PAPER ABOUT 20 BY 30 INCHES. USING THE FRAME AS A GUIDE, DRAW THE OUTLINE OF THE FRAME, ONE INCH FROM THE OUTSIDE. CUT OUT ALONG THIS LINE. NOW FOLD BACK THE PAPER OVER THE FRAME AND GLUE THE OVERLAP. WHEN DRY, TIE 8 IN. STRING BETWEEN A AND B TO FORM BRIDLE.

FASTEN YOUR LINE TO THE BRIDLE (BETWEEN A AND B) - TRY VARIOUS POINTS FOR BALANCE - YOUR BAT-KITE IS READY TO FLY!

Build this AIRPORT BIRDHOUSE

TO WELCOME BACK THE BIRDS RETURNING FROM THEIR WINTER HOME, YOU CAN MAKE THIS *BIRD AIRPORT* TO PUT IN YOUR YARD ON TOP OF A POLE. USE A FRUIT CRATE FOR YOUR MAIN BUILDING MATERIALS. A PIECE OF TIN, CUT FROM AN OIL CAN WILL MAKE THE ROOF. FOR THE WINDSOCK MAST, YOU CAN USE AN OLD CURTAIN ROD, OR A THIN BROOMSTICK. THE DIMENSIONS INDICATED IN THE DRAWING AT THE RIGHT ARE APPROXIMATE. YOU CAN MAKE THE *BIRD AIRPORT* ANY SIZE, DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE WOOD YOU HAVE ON HAND. MAKE THE HOLES ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE BIRDS YOU WANT TO USE THE BIRDHOUSE. SPRINKLE SOME GRAIN OR BREADCRUMBS ON THE FRONT APRON, AND WATCH THE BIRD TRAFFIC FLY IN!



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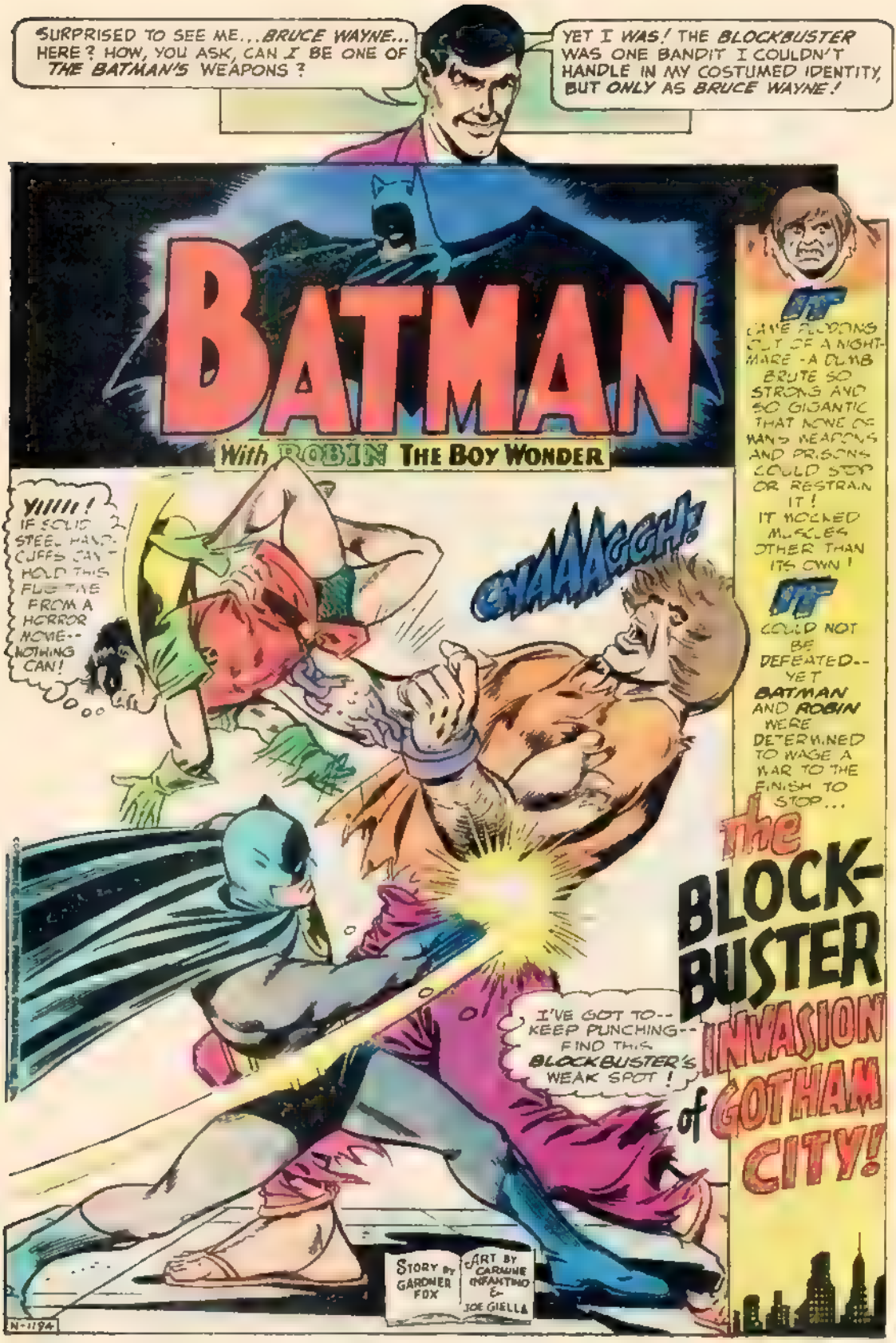
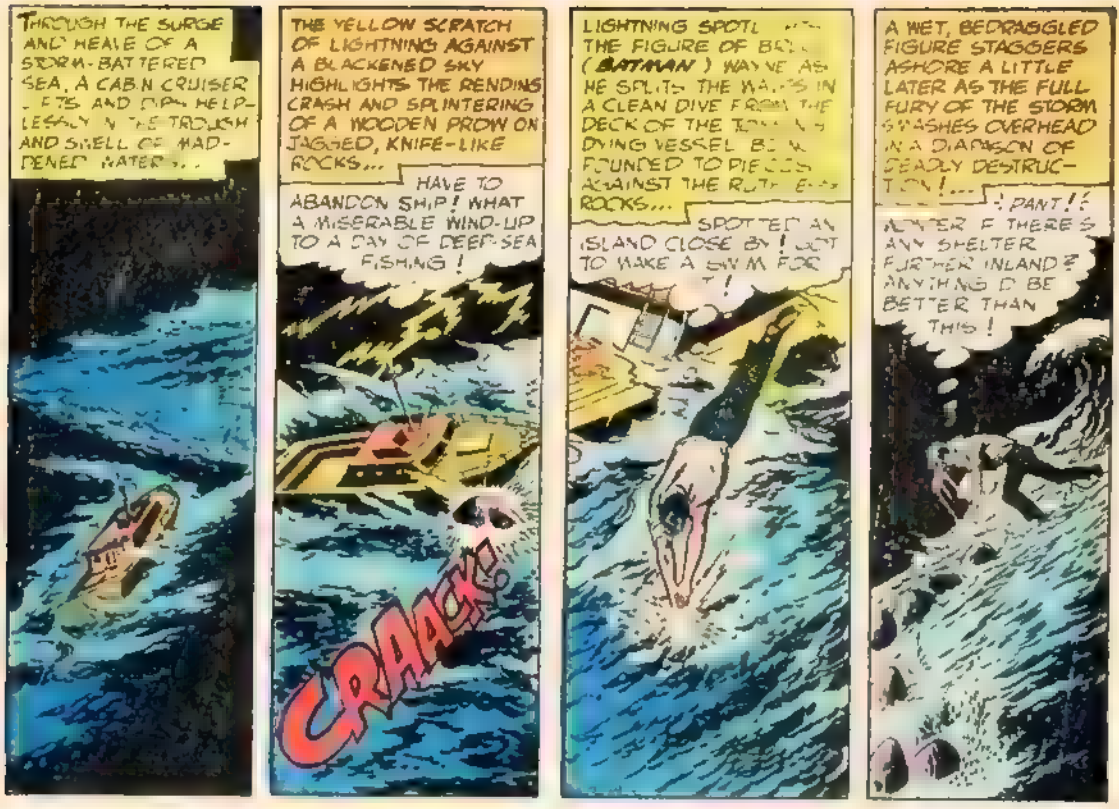
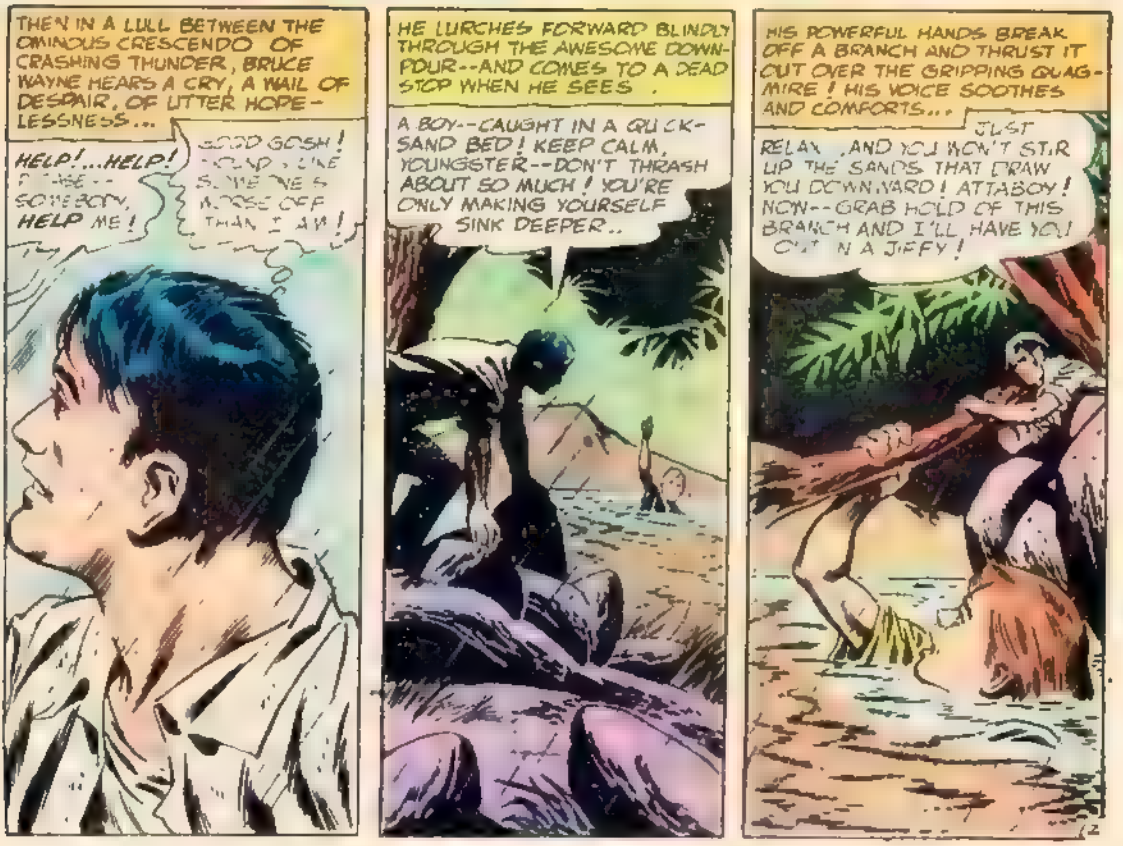

SURPRISED TO SEE ME...BRUCE WAYNE... HERE? HOW, YOU ASK, CAN I BE ONE OF THE BATMAN'S WEAPONS?
YET I WAS! THE BLOCKBUSTER WAS ONE BANDIT I COULDN'T HANDLE IN MY COSTUMED IDENTITY, BUT ONLY AS BRUCE WAYNE!
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
IT CAME FLOATING OUT OF A NIGHTMARE - A DUMB BRUTE SO STRONG AND SO GIGANTIC THAT NONE OF MAN'S WEAPONS AND PRISONS COULD STOP OR RESTRAIN IT! IT WORKED MUSCLES OTHER THAN ITS OWN!
IT COULD NOT BE DEFEATED-- YET BATMAN AND ROBIN WERE DETERMINED TO WAGE A WAR TO THE FINISH TO STOP...
Yiiiii! IF SOLID STEEL HANDCUFFS CAN'T HOLD THIS FUGITIVE FROM A HORROR MOVIE-- NOTHING CAN!
CHAAAGGH!
I'VE GOT TO-- KEEP PUNCHING-- FIND THIS BLOCKBUSTER'S WEAK SPOT!
the BLOCK-BUSTER INVASION of GOTHAM CITY!
STORY BY GARDNER FOX
ART BY CARMINE INFANTINO & JOE GIELLA
N-1194


THROUGH THE SURGE AND HEAVE OF A STORM-BATTERED SEA, A CABIN CRUISER ... FITS AND DIPS HELPLESSLY IN THE TROUGH AND SWELL OF MADDENED WATER...
THE YELLOW SCRATCH OF LIGHTNING AGAINST A BLACKENED SKY HIGHLIGHTS THE RENDING CRASH AND SPLINTERING OF A WOODEN PROW ON JAGGED, KNIFE-LIKE ROCKS...
HAVE TO ABANDON SHIP! WHAT A MISERABLE WIND-UP TO A DAY OF DEEP-SEA FISHING!
CRAACK!
LIGHTNING SPOTL... THE FIGURE OF BR... (BATMAN) WAYNE AS HE SPLITS THE WA...S IN A CLEAN DIVE FROM THE DECK OF THE TO... DYING VESSEL B... POUNDED TO PIECES AGAINST THE RUTH... ROCKS...
SPOTTED AN ISLAND CLOSE BY! GOT TO MAKE A SWIM FOR IT!
A WET, BEDRAGGLED FIGURE STAGGERS ASHORE A LITTLE LATER AS THE FULL FURY OF THE STORM SWASHES OVERHEAD IN A DIAPASON OF DEADLY DESTRUCTION!...
PANT!
WONDER IF THERE'S ANY SHELTER FURTHER INLAND? ANYTHING'D BE BETTER THAN THIS!


THEN IN A LULL BETWEEN THE OMINOUS CRESCENDO OF CRASHING THUNDER, BRUCE WAYNE HEARS A CRY, A WAIL OF DESPAIR, OF UTTER HOPELESSNESS...
HELP!...HELP! PLEASE--SOMEBODY, HELP ME!
GOOD GOSH! SOUND'S LIKE SOMEONE'S MORE OFF THAN I AM!
HE LURCHES FORWARD BLINDLY THROUGH THE AWESOME DOWNPOUR--AND COMES TO A DEAD STOP WHEN HE SEES
A BOY--CAUGHT IN A QUICKSAND BED! KEEP CALM, YOUNGSTER--DON'T THRASH ABOUT SO MUCH! YOU'RE ONLY MAKING YOURSELF SINK DEEPER..
HIS POWERFUL HANDS BREAK OFF A BRANCH AND THRUST IT OUT OVER THE GRIPPING QUAGMIRE! HIS VOICE SOOTHES AND COMFORTS...
JUST RELAX...AND YOU WON'T STIR UP THE SANDS THAT DRAW YOU DOWNWARD! ATTABOY! NOW--GRAB HOLD OF THIS BRANCH AND I'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN A JIFFY!

THEN, WITH HIS ARM ABOUT THE BOY FOR SUPPORT BRUCE HEADS INLAND -AND COMES UPON ANOTHER WANDERER OF THE ISLAND WOODLANDS HIS FACE DISTORTED WITH PANIC AND HATE THICK WITH FEAR
MARK ! MARK - IF THAT YOU..
I WAS SO WORRIED ! WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO YOU ?
HE FELL INTO A QUICKSAND BOG - BUT HE SHOULD BE OKAY BY MORNING !
AND IN THE MORNING A GRATEFUL ROLAND DESMOND GRIPS BRUCE WAYNE BY THE HAND AS CLEAR SKIES REVEAL A CHANGE IN WEATHER.
THANKS AGAIN FOR SAVING MY BROTHER MARK.. LIFE ! IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO--
THE OVERNIGHT SHELTER YOU PROVIDED SQUARED THINGS AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED ! NOW IF YOU JUST TAKE ME BACK TO THE MAINLAND
THE DAYS SLIP INTO WEEKS AND THE WEEKS INTO MONTHS. THEN ONE EVENING AS BATMAN AND ROBIN MAKE THEIR PATROL OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT OF GOTHAM CITY...
TAKE A GANDER AT THAT ! A BIG HOLE IN THAT WALL - AND POLICE PATROL CARS GATHERED TO INVESTIGATE !
ODD THAT WE DIDN'T HEAR ANY EXPLOSION OR POLICE SIRENS !
THERE WAS NO EXPLOSION BATMAN ! A SINGLE MAN MADE THAT OPENING -- WITH SHEER BRUTE STRENGTH !
WHAT?!
YES HE SLAMMED INTO THAT WALL LIKE A FULLBACK RAMMING THE LINE - CLEAVING A PATH THROUGH BRICK AND CONCRETE AS IF MADE OF TISSUE PAPER !..
CRAASH!
"INSIDE THE BANK HE STUFFED A DOUBLE KNAPSACK FULL OF MONEY ! WE SAW HIM COMING OUT-- AND WHEN HE IGNORED OUR WARNING TO STOP... "
OUR BULLETS FLATTEN OUT WHEN THEY HIT HIS BODY -- AND BOUNCE OFF !
THOUGH WE THIS ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN IN HORROR MOVIES !
POW!
POW!

"AS IF TO SHOW HIS DEFIANCE OF US, HE LIFTED MY PARKED SQUAD CAR HIGH INTO THE AIR WITH ONE HAND..."

CHAAACH!

"THEN, SETTING THE CAR DOWN, HE RACED OFF INTO THE NIGHT."

WOWEE! HOW'D YOU SEE ANYONE FIGHT A BLOCKBUSTER LIKE THAT!

BLOCKBUSTER!! SAY THAT'S A TERRIFIC HEADLINE FOR THE BLOCK-BUSTER BANDIT"! YEAH!

A STUNNED ROBIN GIVES VOICE TO THE THOUGHTS THAT SWIRL ABOUT IN EVERYONE'S MIND...

SOON AFTERWARD IN THE BATCAVE, THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND THE BOY WONDER BUCKLE DOWN TO SEVERAL HOURS' WORK...

IF THAT BLOCK-BUSTER'S GOING TO HAUNT OUR NIGHTLY PATROLS WE'D BETTER BE READY TO DEAL WITH HIM!

WITH SOME VERY SPECIAL WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT TO HANDLE HIS VERY SPECIAL CASE!

ONE NIGHT--TWO WEEKS AFTER THE BLOCKBUSTER'S FIRST BIG OUTBREAK! THEN ON THE SHORT-WAVE RADIO OF THE BATMOBILE COMES THE ALARM THEY HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR...

ATTENTION ALL UNITS! AN OFFICER ON THE BEAT HAS REPORTED SEEING THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT CRASHING INTO THE TOLLIVER ART GALLERY!

WE'RE ONLY A COUPLE OF BLOCKS FROM THERE ROBIN!

MOMENTS AFTERWARD, TWO GRIM FIGURES VAULT FROM THE BATMOBILE--LADEN WITH THEIR BLOCKBUSTER-BANDIT-CONTROL-GEAR...

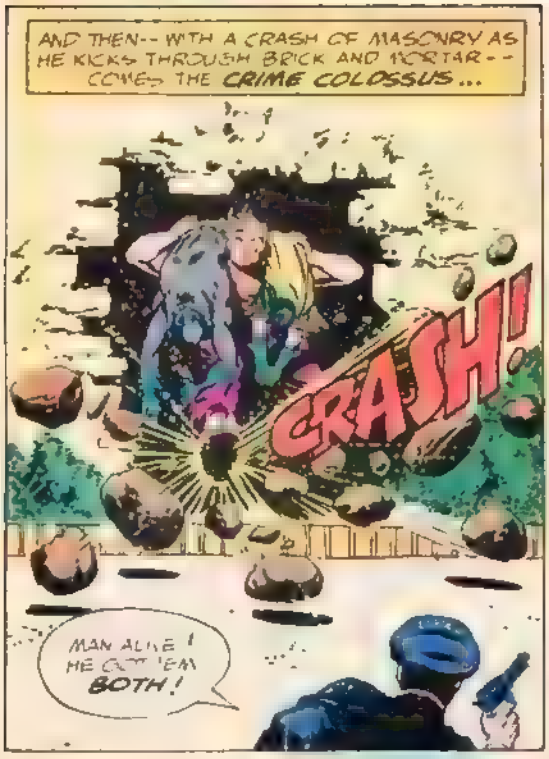
BY ORDER WERE NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE BLOCK-BUSTER--JUST GIVE THE ALARM!

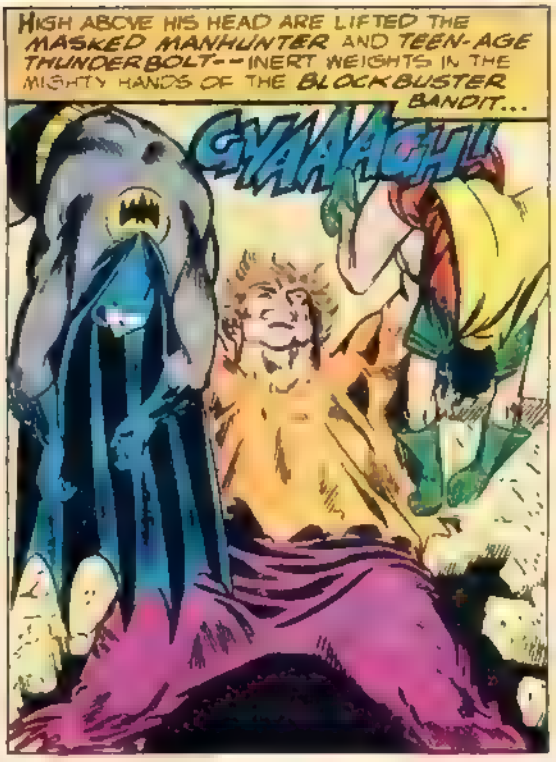
HOLD THE FORT HERE WE'LL BE BACK SOON AS WE'VE HAD A CRACK AT HIM WITH OUR SPECIAL WEAPONS!

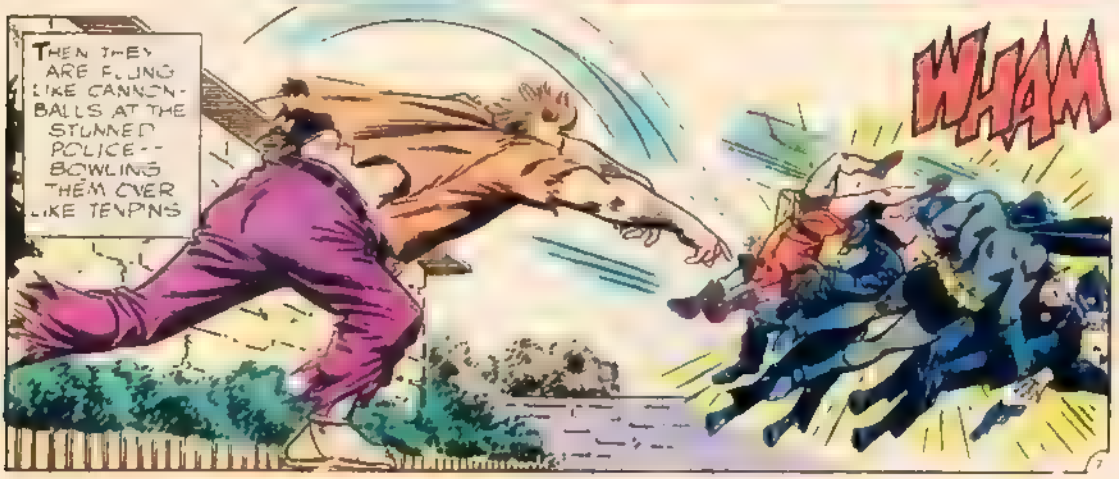
TOWERING LIKE A COLOSSUS IN THE ART GALLERY, THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT TURNS A SAVAGE FACE TOWARD THE ONRUSHING CRIME-FIGHTERS
GYAAGH!
WOW! COMPARED TO THIS BABY, FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER WAS A LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY!
AS DEFTLY AS A MECHANICALLY-CONTROLLED MACHINE, THE DARING DUO MOVES INTO ACTION! A LEADING BATMAN RAMS A FIST INTO A JUTTING JAW
SOK!
AND AS THE CREATURE REACHES OUT TO GRASP AND CRUNCH HIM, ROBIN DARTS BENEATH THOSE ARMS TO SNAP TIGHT THE SPECIAL STEEL MANACLES PREPARED FOR THIS MOMENT..
GOT HIM!
A GLARE OF INSENSATE RAGE CROSSES THE FEATURES OF THE TITANIC TERROR AS HIS MUSCLES BULGE AND BUNCH! STEEL STRANDS CRACK... FLIES WIDE APART
SHADES OF SUPERMAN! THOSE BANDS ARE MADE OF THE STRONGEST STEEL-CROSSABLE! WE'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH OUR PLAN!
GYAGH!
CRAAK!
NOW THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT HURLS A GAS PELLET-- EVEN AS THE COWLED CRUSADER WHIRLS A STEEL-CABLED BOLA..
SEEMS LIKE BLOCKBUSTER HAS ONLY A ONE-TRACK MIND! ...AS I SUSPECTED!
BATMAN AND I ARE PROTECTED FROM THE TEAR-GAS! BLOCKBUSTER ISN'T!
GYAGH!

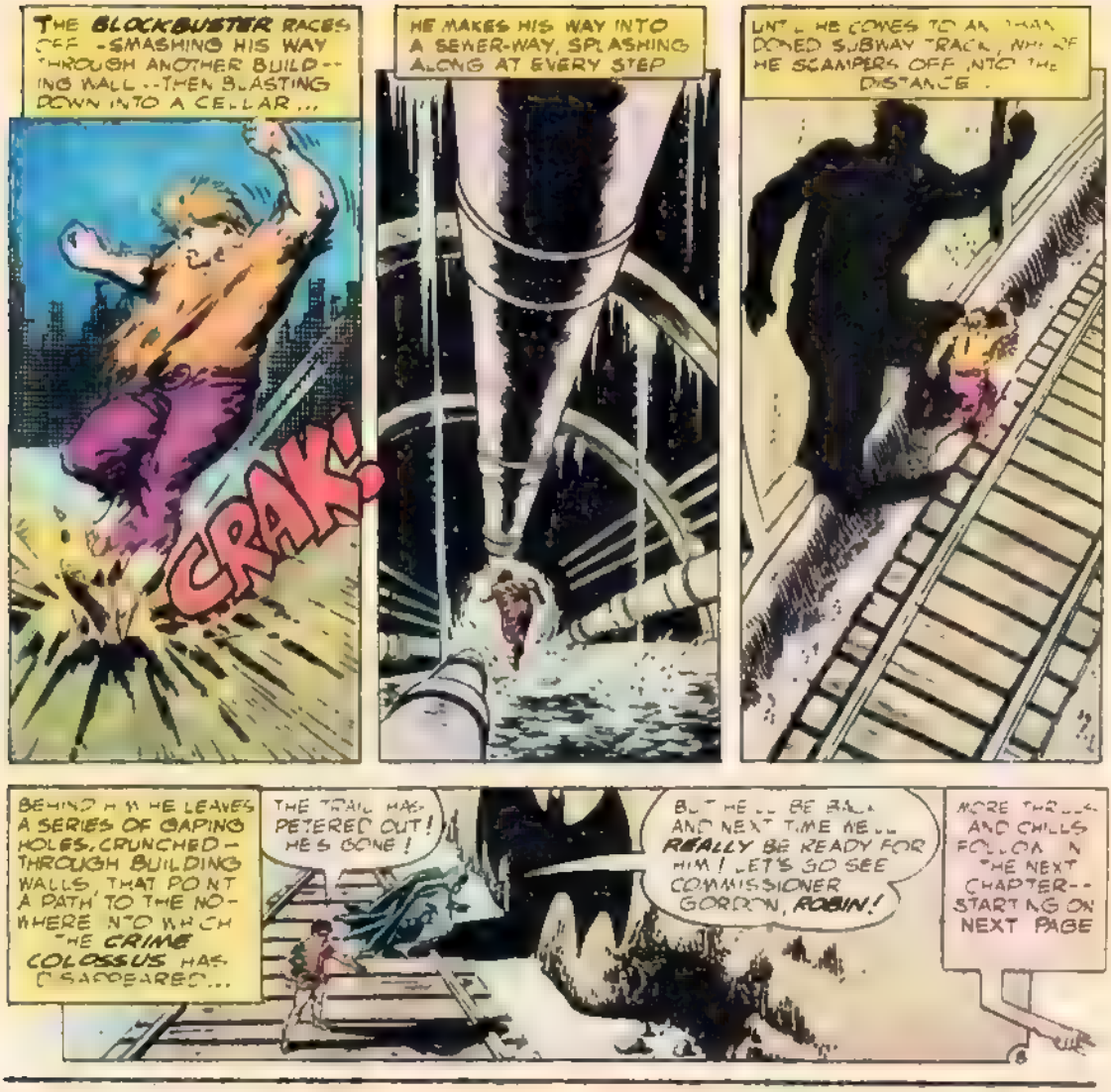
ONCE AGAIN THE BELLOW OF THE MADDENED GIANT SOUNDS IN THE GALLERY AS THE CABLES SNAP AND
GYAAGH!
ANYTHING BOTHER THIS FREEP!?
EDITOR'S NOTE: SLANG FOR A COMBINATION FREAK AND CREEP!
A MASSIVE HAND DARTS OUT AND CLOSES IN A GRIP OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER . .
ROBIN! HE HAS A WEAK SPOT, I'D BETTER FIND IT FAST!
THUD!
FISTS THAT HAVE NEVER MET THEIR EQUAL BASH AND THUD UP AND DOWN THAT ROCK-LIKE BODY! BATMAN FIGHTS AS HE HAS NEVER FOUGHT BEFORE - TO FREE HIS YOUNG COMPANION FROM THAT AWESOME GRIP
LIKE BANGING ONE'S HEAD AGAINST THE PROVERBIAL WALL
POW!
THE BLOCKBUSTER DRAWS BACK A FEW STEPS - AS HE RAISES A HAND TO A CHEEK THAT HAS TAKEN BATTERING PUNISHMENT! HE TOUCHES HIS FLESH GINGERLY, AS IF IN PAIN
I'M GETTING TO BE AS MISERABLE AS I THOUGHT!
GYAAGH!
AGAIN THE COWLED CRUSADER HITS-- AND YET AGAIN--WITH BLOWS THAT WOULD FELL AN OX! AND STUNG TO A WILD ANIMALISTIC FURY--THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT ROARS WITH ANGER . .
GYAAAAGH!
THUNNK!
THUNNK!

OUTSIDE THE GALLERY WAITS A FORCE OF EAGER, WELL-TRAINED POLICEMEN.
BLAPPP! VOOOMP!
DON'T INTERFERE! GIVE BATMAN AND ROBIN A CHANCE TO GET THEIR MAN!
WHAT A BATTLE THEY MUST BE PUTTING UP!

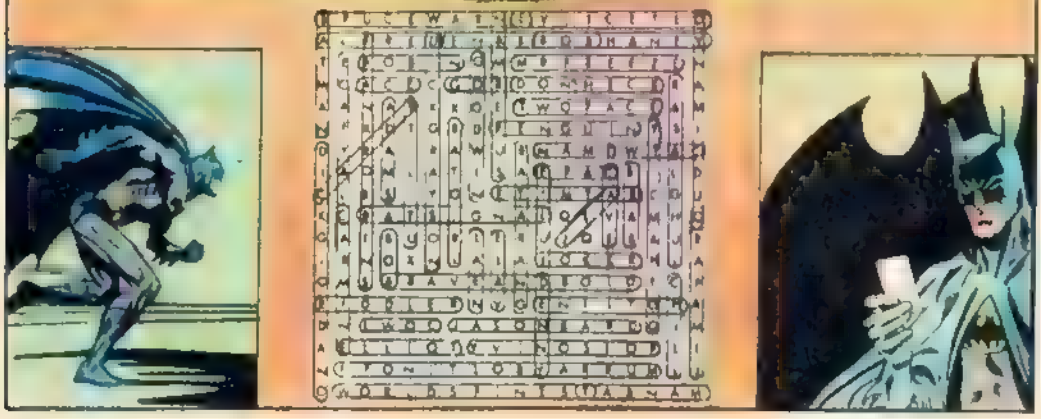

AND THEN-- WITH A CRASH OF MASONRY AS HE KICKS THROUGH BRICK AND MORTAR-- COMES THE CRIME COLOSSUS...
CRASH!
MAN ALIVE! HE GOT 'EM BOTH!


HIGH ABOVE HIS HEAD ARE LIFTED THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT-- INERT WEIGHTS IN THE MIGHTY HANDS OF THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT...
GYAAAGH!

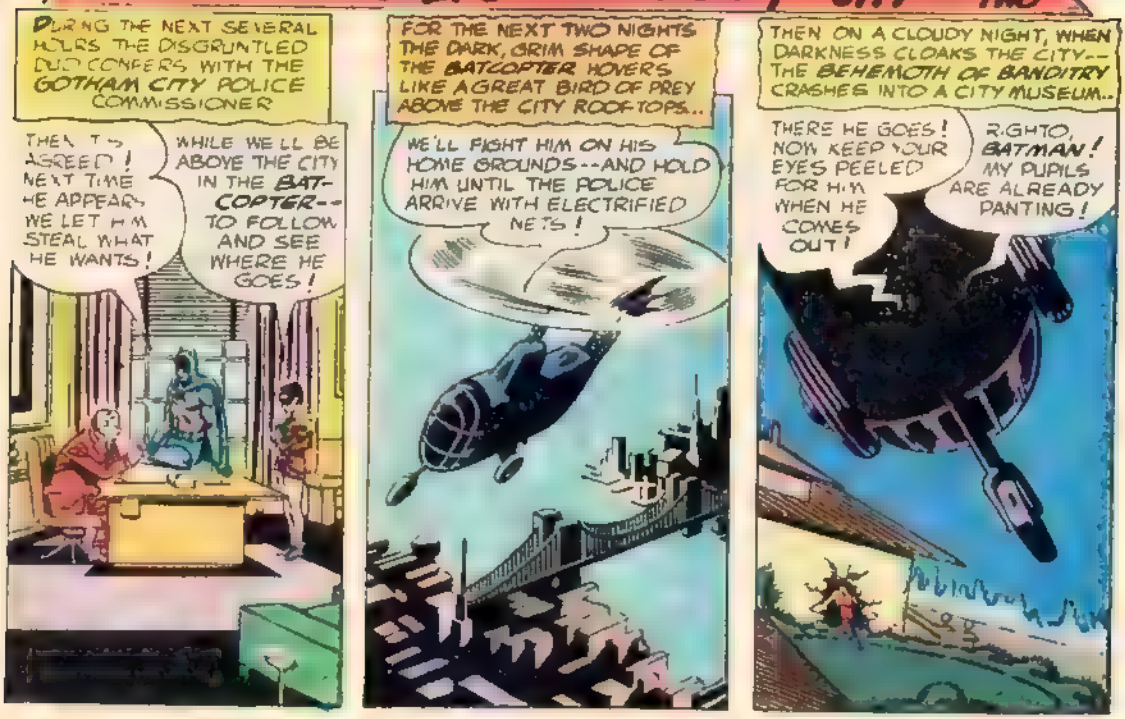

THEN THEY ARE FLUNG LIKE CANNON-BALLS AT THE STUNNED POLICE-- BOWLING THEM OVER LIKE TENPINS
WHAM

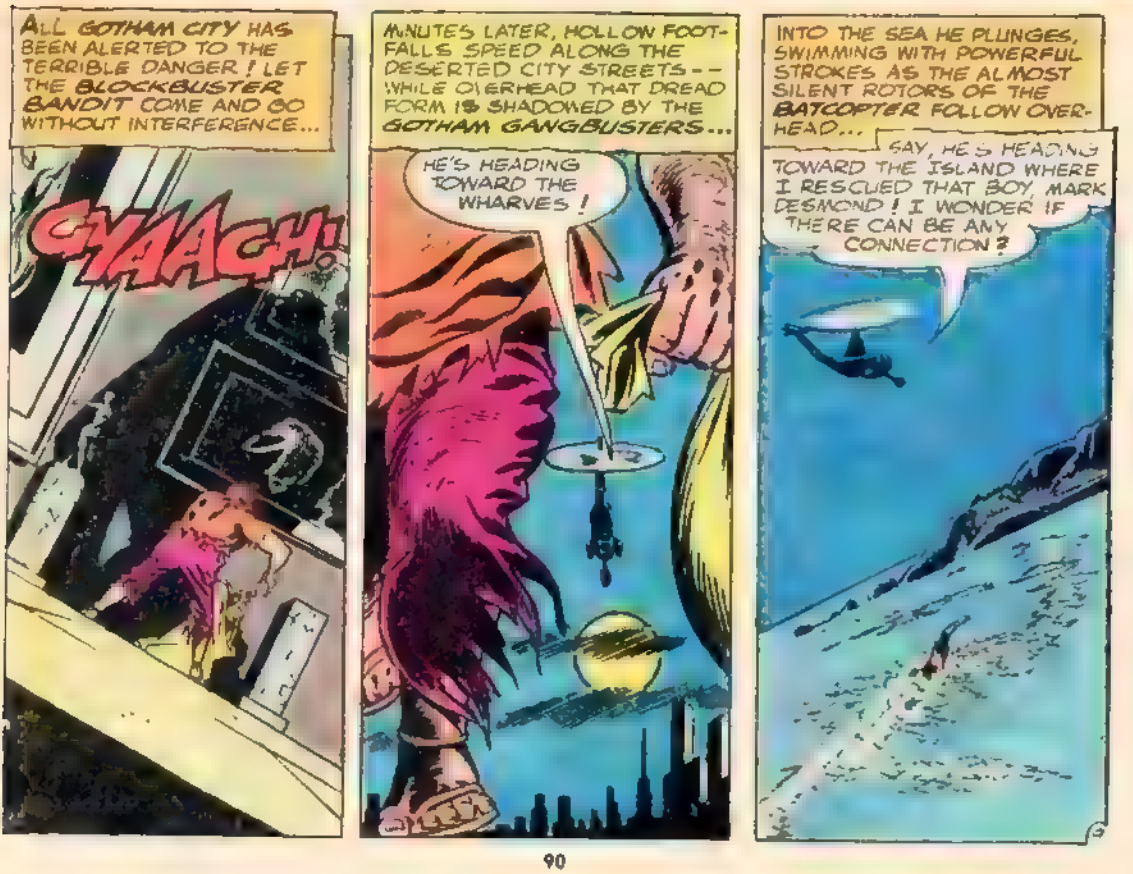

THE BLOCKBUSTER RACES OFF -SMASHING HIS WAY THROUGH ANOTHER BUILD-- ING WALL --THEN BLASTING DOWN INTO A CELLAR ...
CRAK!
HE MAKES HIS WAY INTO A SEWER-WAY, SPLASHING ALONG AT EVERY STEP
UNTIL HE COMES TO AN ABANDONED SUBWAY TRACK, WHICH HE SCAMPERS OFF INTO THE DISTANCE.
BEHIND HIM HE LEAVES A SERIES OF GAPING HOLES, CRUNCHED-THROUGH BUILDING WALLS, THAT POINT A PATH TO THE NOWHERE INTO WHICH THE CRIME COLOSSUS HAS DISAPPEARED...
THE TRAIL HAS PETERED OUT! HE'S GONE!
BUT HE'LL BE BACK AND NEXT TIME HE'LL REALLY BE READY FOR HIM! LET'S GO SEE COMMISSIONER GORDON, ROBIN!
MORE THRILLS AND CHILLS FOLLOW IN THE NEXT CHAPTER-- STARTING ON NEXT PAGE

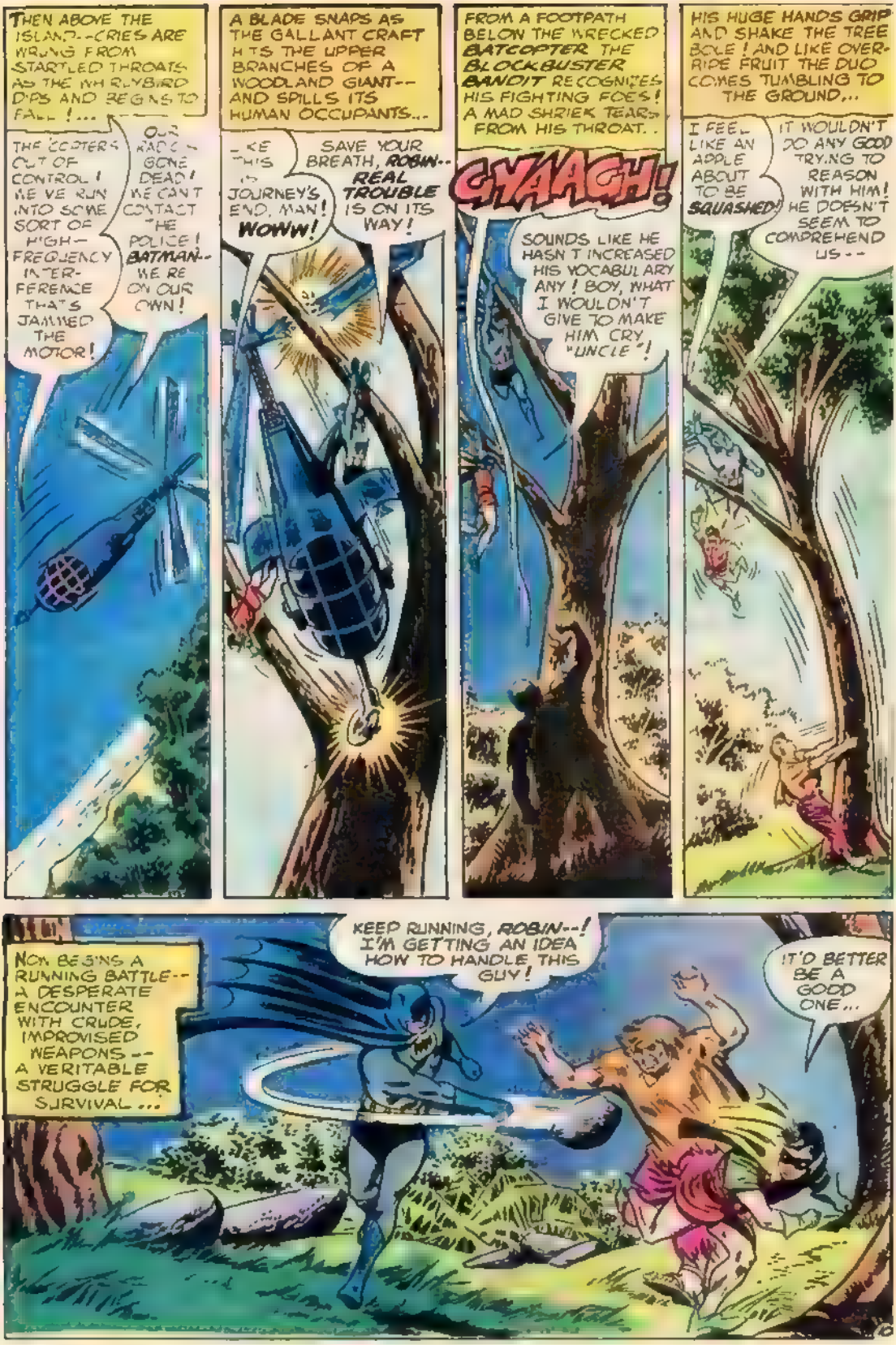
HERE IS THE ANSWER TO THE BAT-PUZZLE ON PAGE 39



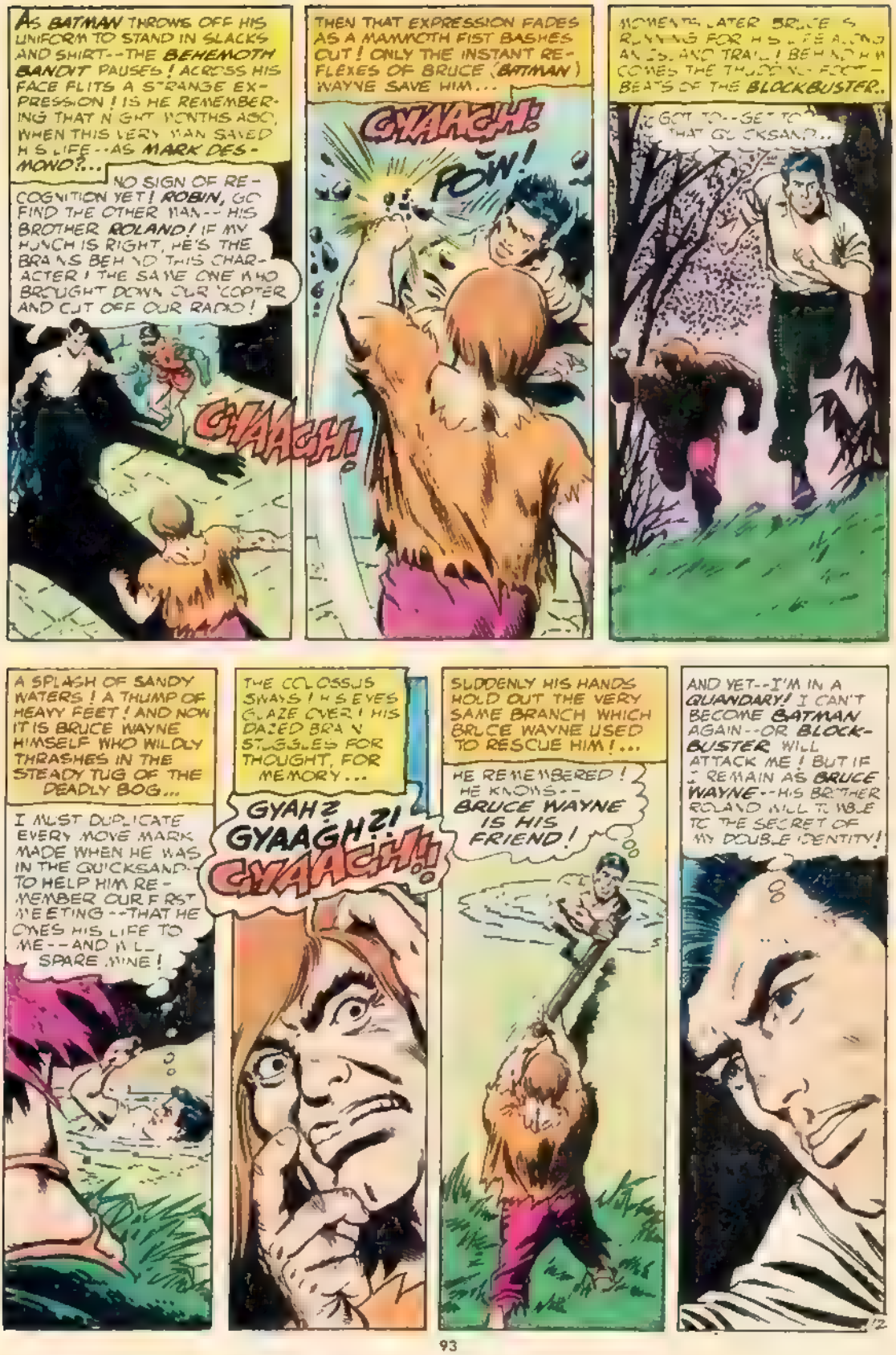
The BLOCKBUSTER INVASION of GOTHAM CITY -- PART TWO


DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL HOURS THE DISGRUNTLED DUO CONFERS WITH THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER
THEN IT'S AGREED! NEXT TIME HE APPEARS WE LET HIM STEAL WHAT HE WANTS!
WHILE WE'LL BE ABOVE THE CITY IN THE BAT-COPTER -- TO FOLLOW AND SEE WHERE HE GOES!
FOR THE NEXT TWO NIGHTS THE DARK, GRIM SHAPE OF THE BATCOPTER HOVERS LIKE A GREAT BIRD OF PREY ABOVE THE CITY ROOF-TOPS...
WE'LL FIGHT HIM ON HIS HOME GROUNDS -- AND HOLD HIM UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE WITH ELECTRIFIED NETS!
THEN ON A CLOUDY NIGHT, WHEN DARKNESS CLOAKS THE CITY -- THE BEHEMOTH OF BANDITRY CRASHES INTO A CITY MUSEUM..
THERE HE GOES! NOW KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR HIM WHEN HE COMES OUT!
RIGHTO, BATMAN! MY PUPILS ARE ALREADY PANTING!

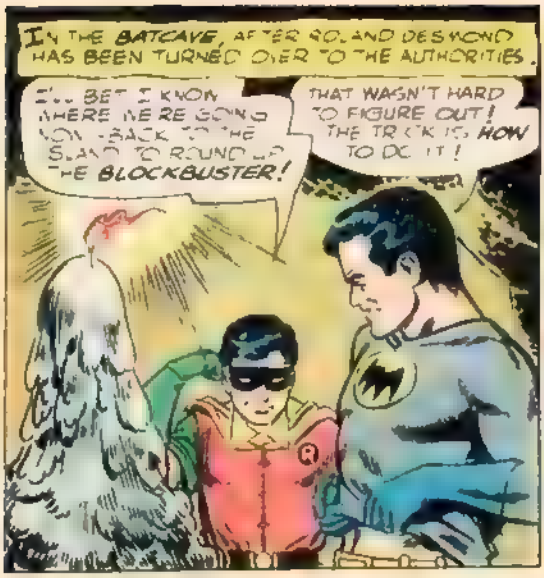

ALL GOTHAM CITY HAS BEEN ALERTED TO THE TERRIBLE DANGER! LET THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT COME AND GO WITHOUT INTERFERENCE...
GYAAGH!
MINUTES LATER, HOLLOW FOOT-FALLS SPEED ALONG THE DESERTED CITY STREETS -- WHILE OVERHEAD THAT DREAD FORM IS SHADOWED BY THE GOTHAM GANGBUSTERS...
HE'S HEADING TOWARD THE WHARVES!
INTO THE SEA HE PLUNGES, SWIMMING WITH POWERFUL STROKES AS THE ALMOST SILENT ROTORS OF THE BATCOPTER FOLLOW OVER-HEAD...
SAY, HE'S HEADING TOWARD THE ISLAND WHERE I RESCUED THAT BOY, MARK DESMOND! I WONDER IF THERE CAN BE ANY CONNECTION?


THEN ABOVE THE ISLAND--CRIES ARE WRUNG FROM STARTLED THROATS AS THE WHIRLYBIRD DIPS AND BEGINS TO FALL!...
THE COPTER'S OUT OF CONTROL! WE'VE RUN INTO SOME SORT OF HIGH-FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE THAT'S JAMMED THE MOTOR!
OUR RADIO'S GONE DEAD! WE CAN'T CONTACT THE POLICE! BATMAN--WE'RE ON OUR OWN!
A BLADE SNAPS AS THE GALLANT CRAFT HITS THE UPPER BRANCHES OF A WOODLAND GIANT--AND SPILLS ITS HUMAN OCCUPANTS...
LIKE THIS IS JOURNEY'S END, MAN! WOWW!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, ROBIN--REAL TROUBLE IS ON ITS WAY!
FROM A FOOTPATH BELOW THE WRECKED BATCOPTER THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT RECOGNIZES HIS FIGHTING FOES! A MAD SHRIEK TEARS FROM HIS THROAT..
GYAAGH!
SOUNDS LIKE HE HASN'T INCREASED HIS VOCABULARY ANY! BOY, WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO MAKE HIM CRY "UNCLE"!
HIS HUGE HANDS GRIP AND SHAKE THE TREE BOLE! AND LIKE OVER-RIPE FRUIT THE DUO COMES TUMBLING TO THE GROUND...
I FEEL LIKE AN APPLE ABOUT TO BE SQUASHED!
IT WOULDN'T DO ANY GOOD TRYING TO REASON WITH HIM! HE DOESN'T SEEM TO COMPREHEND US--
NOW BEGINS A RUNNING BATTLE--A DESPERATE ENCOUNTER WITH CRUDE, IMPROVISED WEAPONS--A VERITABLE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL...
KEEP RUNNING, ROBIN--! I'M GETTING AN IDEA HOW TO HANDLE THIS GUY!
IT'D BETTER BE A GOOD ONE...

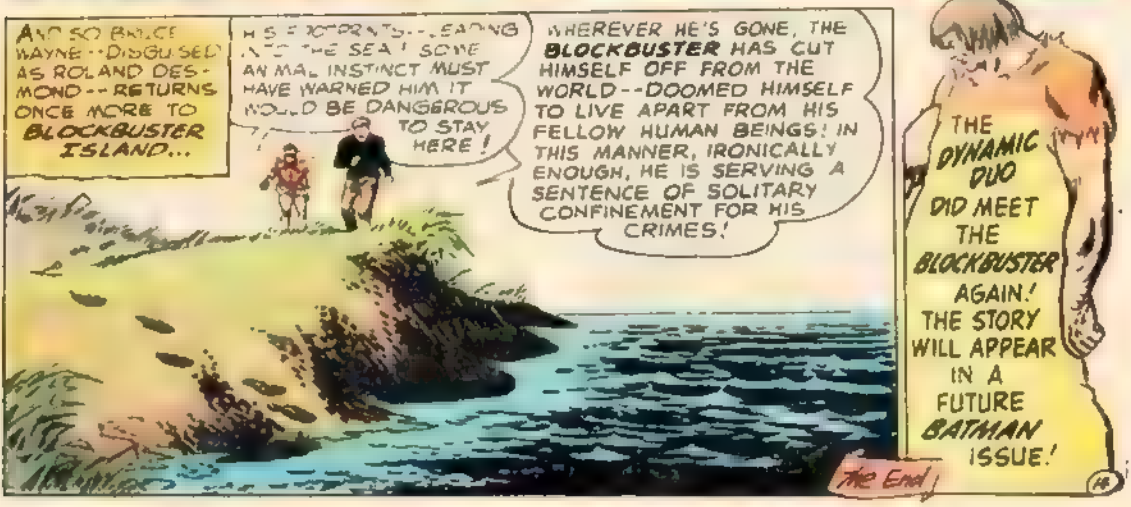
DODGING AROUND TREES, CHANGING DIRECTION ABRUPTLY THEY COME IN SIGHT OF...
A HOUSE!
THE ONE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR--WHERE ROLAND DESMOND LIVES WITH HIS BROTHER MARK!
ON FEET THAT FLY LIKE THOSE OF OLYMPIC SPRINTERS, THE CRIME-FIGHTING COUPLE DASHES INTO THE CELLAR-WAY OF THE HOUSE,
OKAY! NOW I CAN GET SET TO STOP THE BLOCKBUSTER!
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE SET--AND I'LL CALL GO!
SLAM!
THE MADDENED MIGHT OF THE CRIME COLOSSUS IS NOT TO BE DENIED! HE LUNGES FOR HARD--AND THE HEAVY OAK DOOR SHATTERS BEFORE HIM.
NOW BATMAN?
NOT YET ROBIN!
CRUNCH
TELLING IN THE ALERT, DEDUCTIVE BRAIN OF BATMAN IS THE ONE POSSIBLE HOPE OF VICTORY IN THIS UNEQUAL STRUGGLE...
ROBIN--I THINK THE BLOCKBUSTER IS THE SAME FELLOW I SAVED FROM THE QUICKSAND BED--MARK DESMOND! THERE'S JUST ENOUGH FACIAL STRUCTURE LEFT SO THAT THEY LOOK ALIKE! IF THAT'S SO--I CAN STOP HIM!
BUT YOU TOLD ME MARK WAS A SCRAWNY KID! THIS ONE'S A--A BLOCK-BUSTER!
DESPERATELY THE BOY WONDER FLINGS HIMSELF UPON THE MASKED MANHUNTER! HIS VOICE PLEADS AS HIS HANDS RESTRAIN..
NO, NO, BATMAN! YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE BLOCK-BUSTER! HE'S TOO TOUGH AN OPPONENT!
TOO TOUGH FOR BATMAN--BUT NOT FOR BRUCE WAYNE!


AS BATMAN THROWS OFF HIS UNIFORM TO STAND IN SLACKS AND SHIRT--THE BEHEMOTH BANDIT PAUSES! ACROSS HIS FACE FLITS A STRANGE EXPRESSION! IS HE REMEMBERING THAT NIGHT MONTHS AGO, WHEN THIS VERY MAN SAVED HIS LIFE--AS MARK DESMOND?...
NO SIGN OF RECOGNITION YET! ROBIN, GO FIND THE OTHER MAN--HIS BROTHER ROLAND! IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, HE'S THE BRAINS BEHIND THIS CHARACTER! THE SAME ONE WHO BROUGHT DOWN OUR 'COPTER AND CUT OFF OUR RADIO!
GYAAGH!
THEN THAT EXPRESSION FADES AS A MAMMOTH FIST BASHES OUT! ONLY THE INSTANT REFLEXES OF BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE SAVE HIM...
GYAAGH!
POW!
MOMENTS LATER BRUCE IS RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE ALONG AN OLD TRAIL! BEHIND HIM COMES THE THUNDERING FOOTBEATS OF THE BLOCKBUSTER..
GOT TO--GET TO THAT QUICKSAND...
A SPLASH OF SANDY WATERS! A THUMP OF HEAVY FEET! AND NOW IT IS BRUCE WAYNE HIMSELF WHO WILDLY THRASHES IN THE STEADY TUG OF THE DEADLY BOG...
I MUST DUPLICATE EVERY MOVE MARK MADE WHEN HE WAS IN THE QUICKSAND--TO HELP HIM REMEMBER OUR FIRST MEETING--THAT HE OWES HIS LIFE TO ME--AND I'LL SPARE MINE!
THE COLOSSUS SWAYS! HIS EYES GLAZE OVER! HIS DAZED BRAIN STRUGGLES FOR THOUGHT, FOR MEMORY...
GYAH?
GYAAGH?!
GYAAGH!
SUDDENLY HIS HANDS HOLD OUT THE VERY SAME BRANCH WHICH BRUCE WAYNE USED TO RESCUE HIM!...
HE REMEMBERED! HE KNOWS--BRUCE WAYNE IS HIS FRIEND!
AND YET--I'M IN A QUANDARY! I CAN'T BECOME BATMAN AGAIN--OR BLOCKBUSTER WILL ATTACK ME! BUT IF I REMAIN AS BRUCE WAYNE--HIS BROTHER ROLAND WILL TUMBLE TO THE SECRET OF MY DOUBLE IDENTITY!
12

AT THIS MOMENT, ROBIN IS ON THE ATTACK! HE, TOO REALIZES THE DILEMMA CONFRONTING BRUCE WAYNE--AS HIS FIST THUNDERS AGAINST THE JAW OF ROLAND DESMOND...
ZOK!
I MUST MAKE HIM--FAST!
THEN AS BRUCE APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY, THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT IS STARTLED BY HIS COMMAND
TAKE ROLAND TO HIS BOAT! AND HURRY! THE THREE OF US ARE GETTING OUT OF HERE!
B-BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BLOCKBUSTER? I GUESS HE'S YOUR "FRIEND" NOW--BUT WE CAME HERE TO CAPTURE HIM!
WHILE ROBIN LUGS ROLAND TO THE BOAT, BRUCE RETURNS TO THE CELLAR WHERE...
WHEN ROBIN GIVES IT SOME THOUGHT HE'LL REALIZE THAT BLOCKBUSTER MUST STAY ON THE ISLAND UNTIL WE CAN RETURN AND THAT ROLAND MUSTN'T SEE ME--AS BATMAN!
WHILE BLOCKBUSTER WANDERS AROUND THE ISLAND, BATMAN SNEAKS OFF TO THE WAITING BOAT...
YEAH, YOU CAUGHT ME! AND YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT MARK! HE'S THE BLOCKBUSTER--BUT HE ONLY OBEYS ME! AND HE'LL GET YOU YET--BECAUSE I'LL NEVER TELL HIM NOT TO!
MARK WAS ALWAYS THE GENIUS OF THE FAMILY BUT HE WAS A SCRAWNY KID! SO HE WORKED OUT A SERUM THAT WOULD AFFECT CERTAIN ENDOCRINE GLANDS TO MAKE HIM GROW BIG AND STRONG! BUT HE WAS OVER-ANXIOUS--HE NEVER BOTHERED TO TEST HIS DISCOVERY FIRST!
WHAT NATURE GAVE WITH ONE HAND, TOOK AWAY WITH THE OTHER! AN OVER-ACTIVE ANTERIOR LOBE OF THE PITUITARY GLAND MADE HIM SHOOT UP LIKE A GIANT--WITH TREMENDOUS STRENGTH! BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY, A FAULTY ENDOCRINE GLAND RETARDED HIS MENTAL DEVELOPMENT..


IN THE BATCAVE, AFTER ROLAND DESMOND HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES...
I... BET I KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING NOW--BACK TO THE ISLAND TO ROUND UP THE BLOCKBUSTER!
THAT WASN'T HARD TO FIGURE OUT! THE TRICK IS, HOW TO DO IT!

AS SOON AS I HEARD ROLAND DESMOND SAY THAT HIS BLOCKBUSTER BROTHER ONLY OBEYED HIM--WHICH IS WHY HE ROBBED TO MAKE ROLAND DESMOND RICH--I TUMBLED TO THE FACT THAT YOU'D DISGUISE YOURSELF TO LOOK LIKE HIM, IMITATE HIS VOICE--AND SO GET BLOCKBUSTER TO OBEY YOU!


AND SO BRUCE WAYNE--DISGUISED AS ROLAND DESMOND--RETURNS ONCE MORE TO BLOCKBUSTER ISLAND...
HIS FOOTPRINTS--LEADING INTO THE SEA! SOME ANIMAL INSTINCT MUST HAVE WARNED HIM IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO STAY HERE!
WHEREVER HE'S GONE, THE BLOCKBUSTER HAS CUT HIMSELF OFF FROM THE WORLD--DOOMED HIMSELF TO LIVE APART FROM HIS FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS! IN THIS MANNER, IRONICALLY ENOUGH, HE IS SERVING A SENTENCE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR HIS CRIMES!
THE DYNAMIC DUO DID MEET THE BLOCKBUSTER AGAIN! THE STORY WILL APPEAR IN A FUTURE BATMAN ISSUE!
The End

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

BEGINNING NEXT ISSUE--

BATMAN GOES MONTHLY!

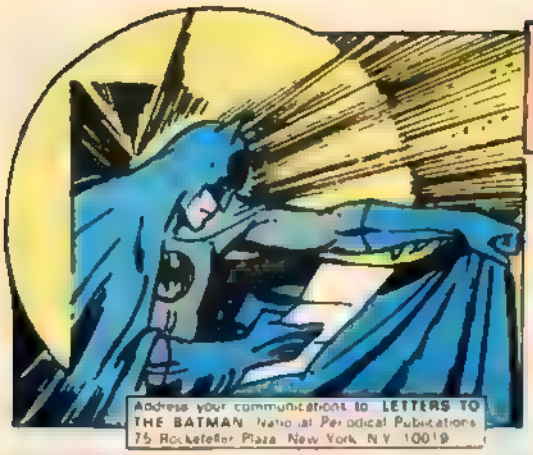
AND THE APRIL ISSUE #262-- FEATURES THE RETURN OF BATMAN'S MOST FRIGHTENING FOE.....

THE SCARECROW'S TRAIL OF FEAR!

PLUS A CLASSIC BATMAN and ROBIN ADVENTURE:

"THE ROUND-ROBIN DEATH-THREATS!"

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN JANUARY


Address your communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN National Periodical Publications 75 Rockefeller Plaza New York, N.Y. 10019

LETTERS to the BATMAN

S-1907

Dear Julie,

I thought I'd be a long time in making so bold a statement as the following, but I find now that I must. Denny O'Neil is THE best writer in the comic book field today! I recently had the pleasure of going through many of my comics from recent years and I noticed that a consistent pattern of excellence has emerged from anything with O'Neil's name on it. There were a few bombs—and I can point to a story or two from most any writer that would top O'Neil's average tale. But when Denny's good, he can't be beat! He has an understanding of comics as a medium that is matched by no one.

Many of Marvel's writers forget that comics are primarily a visual medium and become so entranced with vivid verbal descriptions, they leave nothing for the artist to show with his pencil. I'm one of the minority of fans who feels the story is more important than the art and usually follow a series because of the author rather than the artist. But I recognize that the artist is very important and think it a shame many of the newer writers don't seem to agree. That's a criticism I can't place on Denny O'Neil!

An outstanding example of the use of art and story is "Night of the Shadow" in **BATMAN #259**. On page 14, Bruce Wayne thinks, "Funny . . . I can almost feel his presence already!" while in the background, a dark, mysterious **Shadow** appears against a building's side. I shudder to think how a Marvelite would have handled this panel—taking pains to point out **The Shadow** in a yellow caption. And the tragedy is that anyone old enough to read it doesn't need to!

"Night of The Shadow" is quite possibly the best comic story to appear this year. Not only did we get a quick retelling of **Batman's** origin, but we have an adventure with the two most fearsome crimefighters the world has ever known. O'Neil's use of understatement is excellent. After four pages of gunfire in which a young Bruce Wayne sees his father shot at and then both his parents killed, **Batman** explains his refusal to use sidearms with a simple "I . . . just don't **like** 'em, commissioner!" Fantastic! (One slight bit of nit-picking, though—didn't **Batman** carry a gun in some of his earlier stories?) And again: "**Leave, Batman!** I have no quarrel with **you!**" Then, "Willy Hank, you don't know how **wrong** you are!" Where else can you find such a use of human emotion and irony? Nowhere, I submit, but in **another** O'Neil-scripted **Batman** tale!

Denny O'Neil has finally captured all that is **The Batman.** His earlier scripts on the series have been good and have helped make **The Batman** the most human of comic book heroes. But only in this story have we seen that **The Batman** is truly human, complete with his own set of fears and hopes. I'm hoping to see more of this avenging night figure.

DAVID B. KIRBY, Richmond, Va.

(David, your comments echo our own editorial opinion on what makes a good comic and we hope all the would-be writers and artists out there will pay heed. As to THE BATMAN using a gun, our Walking Encyclopedia of Comic Lore, E. Nelson Bridwell, points out that it was the Caped Crusader of Earth-Two who used one . . . and only on special occasions—such as the time he needed silver bullets to kill vampires!—BR)

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

It looks as though we are entering the second reign of Denny O'Neil as DC's greatest scripter. He's always been the best in my opinion, but when he became an editor, his writing talent was not so much in evidence. Now that he's settled as the regular scripter for **BATMAN,** I can see great things ahead. An overview of his work since #256 is impressive, especially his latest, "Night of the Shadow!"

Please make the **Batman-Shadow** team-up an annual event. They are great together. **The Shadow's** cooly remote confidence and **Batman's** star-struck admiration. The **Caped Crimefighter** works well with just about any hero you throw at him, from **Superman** to **Sgt. Rock,** but I've never seen him quite this good. I also liked the explanation of why **Batman** shuns firearms. It was simple and believable and I applaud Denny for building a tremendous tale around it!

Irv Novick and Dick Giordano are better than ever. I especially liked the shot of **Batman** on page 6. It seems to epitomize the new **Batman** philosophy. True, he is still the dark, terrifying creature of the night, but you will notice that he's smiling.

BOB RODI, Oak Brook, Ill.

(You're not alone in your opinion of Denny O'Neil and "Night of The Shadow," Bob! As we write this, the issue has been on sale for a month and we have yet to receive a negative response on it! More praise follows!—BR)

. . . . .

Dear Editor

I could sum up **BATMAN #259** in many ways, but the first word that comes to mind is FANTASTIC! At first, I was hesitant to buy the issue because, even though I collect many different comics, I have never read **THE SHADOW!** But as an avid fan of **Batman** and **Robin,** I gave in — and I'm glad I did!

"Night of the Shadow" had everything a mystery fan could want. A great plot, beautiful art, a joining of the mysterious manhunter and the man of the macabre, plus a touching dedication. What more could a person ask?

MARCIA MUEHLBACH, St. Louis, Mo.

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

Whether it be a fill-in feature or a **Shazam** winner, Denny O'Neil always manages to bring out the human side of **Batman** in every story he writes. Such was the case in "Night of the Shadow!"

It was quite intriguing to discover young Bruce Wayne had had a run-in with **The Shadow** before his parents were killed. Even more interesting was young Bruce's fear of guns and his "I . . . just don't like 'em" reply to Commissioner Gordon.

The story did have one hokey point. When Mildred Miller left the **Caped Crusader** saying, "Forgive me . . . I want to pray!" **Nobody** would say that! More likely, she'd just turn her wheelchair around and say "I want to be alone!" (Shades of Garbo!) or nothing at all.

CLINT "BUC" THOMAS, Oak Hill, W. Va.

(How do you know NOBODY would say "Forgive me . . . I want to pray!"? Mildred Miller said it and she's SOMEBODY! Seriously, Clint, we try to give our characters a variety of feelings and emotions rather than having them fall into a predictable mold . . . which is why the dialogue isn't always what you might expect it to be!—BR)

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

"Night of the Shadow" was the best **Batman** saga since "Moon of the Wolf" in #255. For the past eight months, Denny O'Neil had struggled valiantly to make the reappearances of **Catwoman, Penguin** and **Two-Face** succeed. On the latter, I must admit that there was nothing lacking as far as **Two-Face's** characterization was concerned. It was the completely unnecessary appearance of **Robin** that ruined what might have been a good story.

"Night of the Shadow" was rich in character and emotion like all the great O'Neil scripts. Denny's plot and dialogue were beautifully embellished by the Novick-Giordano artwork. I've never seen Irv Novick give **The Batman** as much atmosphere, though it's obvious that this is also due to Dick Giordano's marvelous inks.

One final note, please have the good sense to keep the villains' appearances to a minimum. Within their characters, the above-named felons have a grand flaw. They are antiquated. They are not fearsome in the least. **Catwoman** and the **Penguin** should be put away with all the other relics of the **Batcave**. Give the **Batman** some actual mystery tales without any token villains.

MICHAEL VERDEROSA, Englewood, N.J.

(You bring up a point which we have discussed in these pages before, Mike—which villains should BATMAN be fighting, if any at all. Since the response was far from overwhelming, we'll take this opportunity to again invite reader response. Are CATWOMAN and the PENGUIN over the hill? Have TWO-FACE and the JOKER lost their fearsomeness? Are the SPOOK and RAS AL GHUL better foes for the Caped Crusader than the RIDDLER and the SCARECROW? We want to know what YOU think!—BR)

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

I have been reading DC comics for a number of years and one thing bothers me. All the reprints you use are too new! Why can't you give us material from the forties only?

Excerpted from Numerous Letters

(To all of you who have asked that we reprint only stories from (a) the forties (b) the fifties (c) the sixties, we must reply that we prefer: (d) ALL of the above! Though some of our older readers have seen the more recent material before, there are plenty of fans who haven't. Is it fair to expect them to wait thirty years before they get a chance to see these gems? Which gives us the opportunity to tell you that "The 1,001 Inventions of Batman" came from BATMAN #109 (Aug. 1957) while #27 (Feb/Mar. 1945) gave us "A Christmas Peril" and #100 (June 1956) presented "The Great Batman Contest." "Crime's Manhunt" is from DETECTIVE COMICS #92 (Oct. 1944) while #345 of that magazine debuted "The Blockbuster Invasion of Gotham City."—Bob Rozakis)

. . . . .

COMING BAT-TRACTIONS: Next issue marks the long-awaited return of the SCARECROW but that's not all! "The Scarecrow's Trail of Fear" introduces a brand-new penciller to the BATMAN series—Ernie Chua! You've seen his art in our mystery books and more recently he's done work on The SPECTRE and FABULOUS WORLD OF KRYPTON. Wait'll you see how he handles the World's Greatest Detective! And there's still more good news . . . You won't have to wait two months for #262 because BATMAN is becoming a monthly magazine with the next issue—on sale the second week in January!

Not enough for you yet? Well, DETECTIVE COMICS #446 features the third installment in the BAT-MURDERER series, "Slaughter in Silver!" by Len Wein and Jim Aparo. Plus: The Elongated Man tackles the "Case of the Reverse Pickpocket!" And to top it all off, with this April issue, DETECTIVE is also going monthly!

Finally, (What's left for us to do, you ask?) 1975 will introduce a new magazine to the Line of Super-Stars featuring a character who has been around almost as long as BATMAN himself—one whose popularity has increased steadily and has finally earned him the right to his own book! Who is it? Be on the lookout for the book you probably thought you'd never see: THE JOKER! Denny O'Neil wrote it, Irv Novick and Dick Giordano drew it and you can't afford to miss it! That's the premiere of the Clown Prince of Crime, coming from DC in February!

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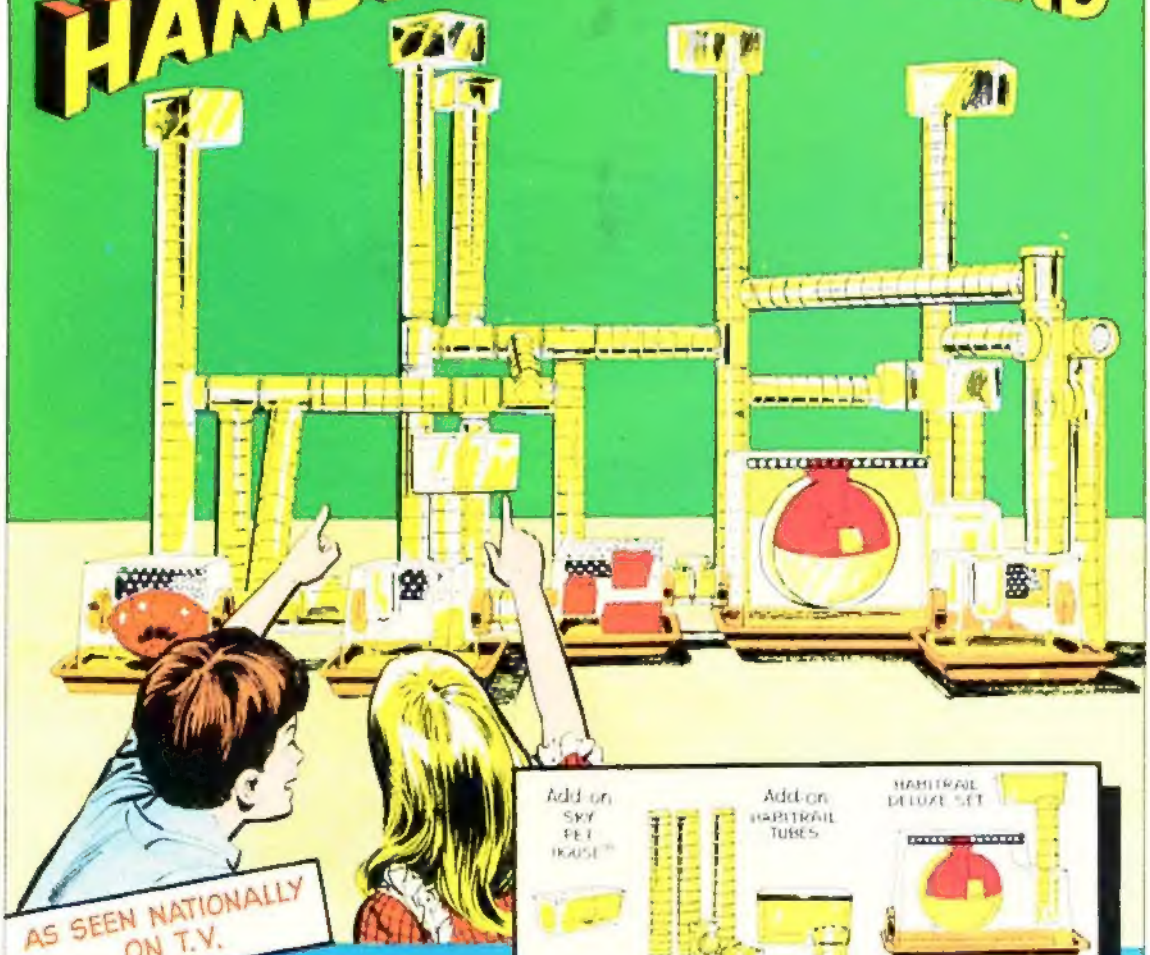

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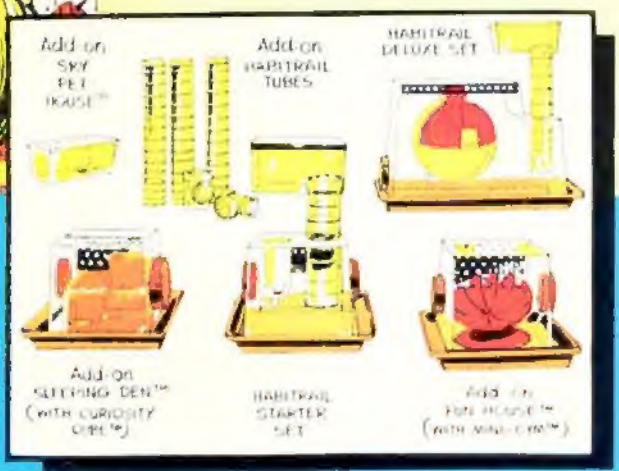
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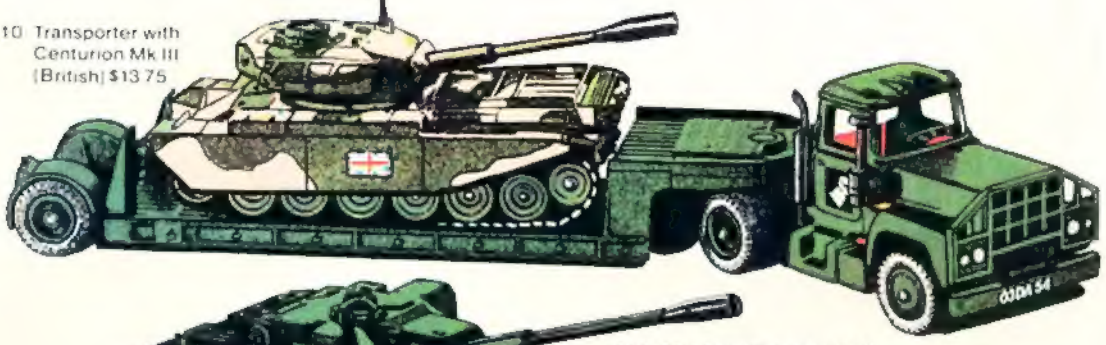

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